SUPER BBC

同棲愛 ①

水城せとな

THAT WAS..
BEFORE I MET YOU.
IF I HADN'T MET YOU, THEN I MIGHT HAVE CONTINUED TO BE THAT WAY.
BUT MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS LIKE THAT THAT I WAS ABLE TO MEET YOU.

CONTENTS

DOUSEI AI: LOVE UNDER ONE ROOF
VOLUME 1

SETONA MIZUSHIRO

DOUSEI AI 3

WHO IS IN
KOUTAROU'S FUTURE!? PART 1 280

I USED TO TRY TO LIVE THINKING ONLY OF ONE PERSON...
THAT ALL STARTED THE SPRING I TURNED 14.

DOUSEI AI
LOVE UNDER ONE ROOF

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CHAPTER 1: TSUBAKI, PART 1

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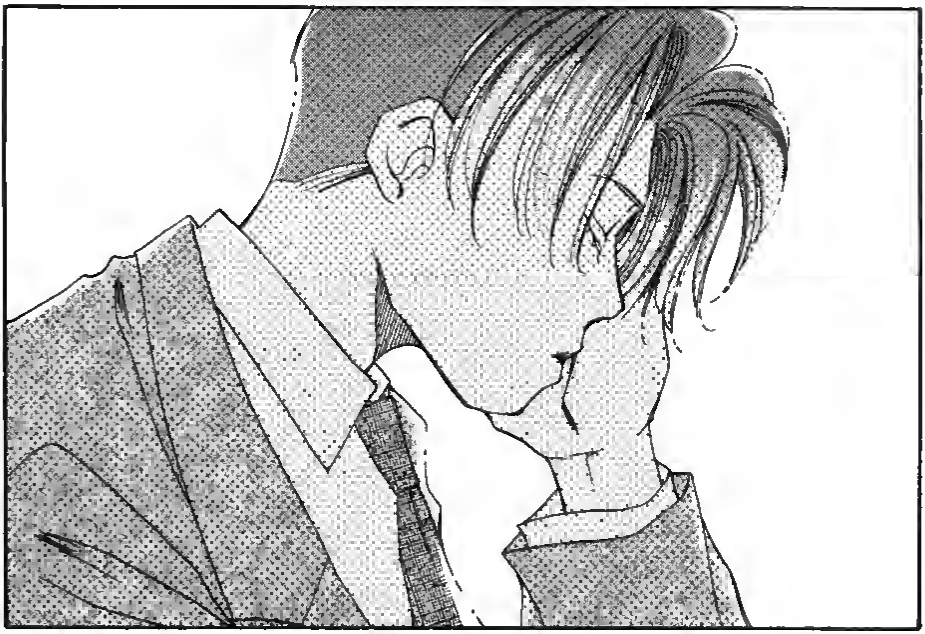
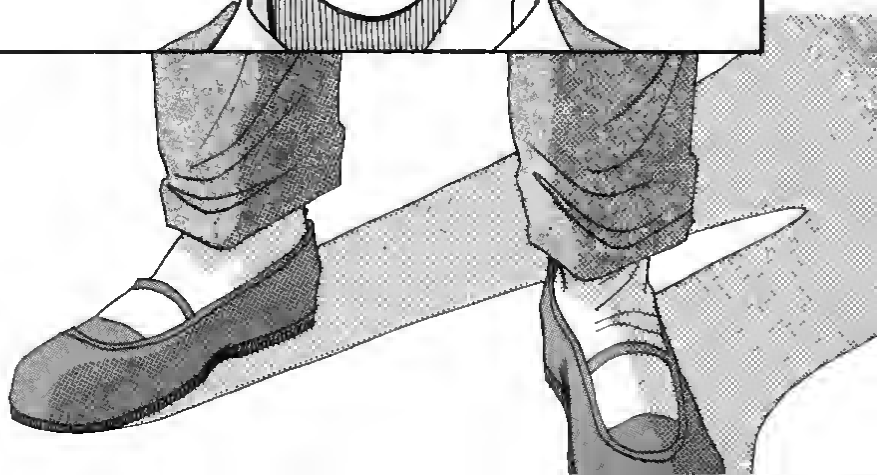
setona mizushiro

DOUSEI-U





I CAUGHT A BAD COLD RIGHT AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY AND ENDED UP ABSENT FROM SCHOOL.

THE SPRING I STARTED MY 3RD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH,

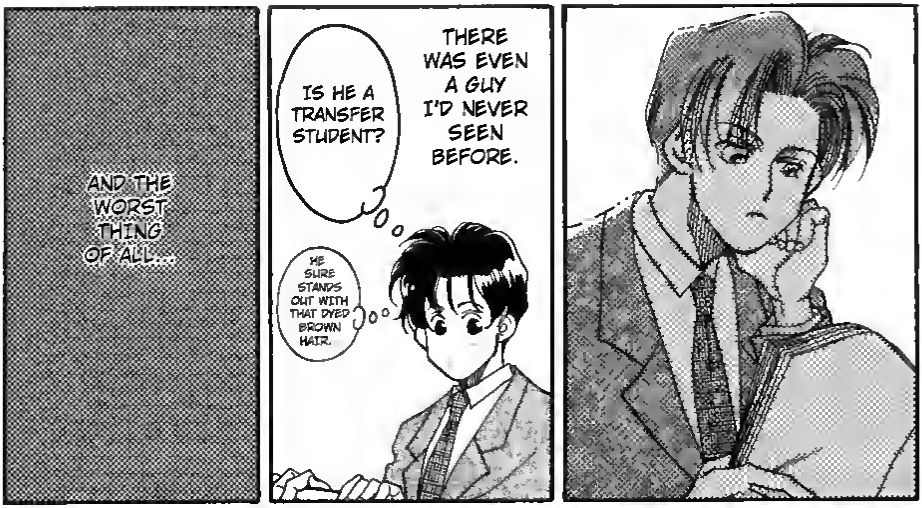
HAVING SO MUCH FUN ALL SPRING BREAK TURNED OUT TO BE A MISTAKE.

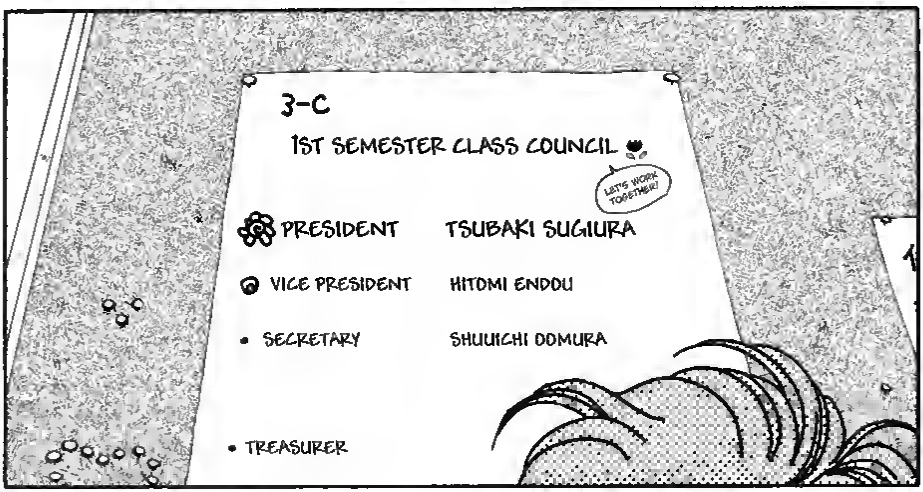
.....

AS IF I WAS A TRANSFER STUDENT.

A WEEK LATER I FINALLY CAME BACK ...

EVERYONE WAS ALREADY ON SUCH GOOD TERMS IN THE NEW CLASS.


AND THE WORST THING OF ALL...
IS HE A TRANSFER STUDENT?
HE SURE STANDS OUT WITH THAT DYED BROWN HAIR.
THERE WAS EVEN A GUY I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE.



WAS THAT I HAD BEEN MADE CLASS PRESIDENT WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT.

EVERYONE, PLEASE GO THERE NOW!
NEXT, SCIENCE 2 IS IN SCIENCE ROOM NUMBER ONE!
CHATTER
CLAMOR
I'M SO BAD AT THIS.
PLEASE LEAVE THE CLASSROOM IMMEDIATELY!
I'M LOCKING THE DOOR NOW!
HA! HE SAYS HE'S LOCKING THE DOOR.
HA-HA-HA
OH, HEY, LET ME BORROW YOUR MIRROR.
ARGH, MY LIPS ARE ALL DRY.

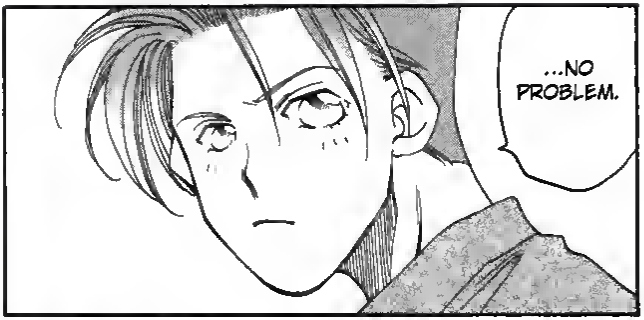
PLEASE-
KATAAN!
STEP
STEP
STEP
SHUNK
SLAM!

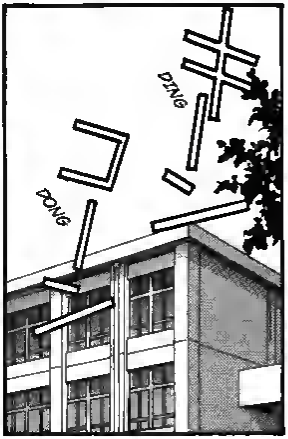
OOHHH... SCARY...
LET'S GO, LET'S GO...
CHATTER
CHATTER
HEY, THAT WAS THE GUY THAT...
RIGHT! RIGHT!
.....
STEP
STEP
UM...
GRAB
HEY!
THANK YOU!

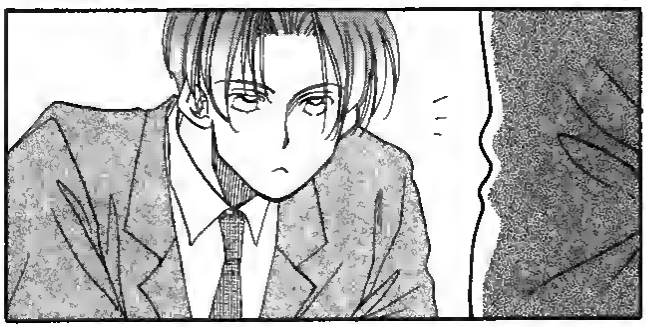
■ TSUBAKI SUGIURA

NICKNAMED "TSUBA-KING" BY THOSE CLOSE TO HIM. NO ONE KNOWS IN WHAT PARTICULAR WAY HE RESEMBLES A "KING," BUT IT IS ALSO USED IN OTHER NAMES LIKE "WEAK-KING."

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE, COMPLAIN-KING.







WANT TO EAT OUR LUNCHES TOGETHER?
.....
I DIDN'T BRING ANY LUNCH.
HEY, YOU'RE A TRANSFER STUDENT, RIGHT?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
OH, YOU BUY LUNCH AT THE CAFETERIA? I'LL GO WITH YOU.
I'M NOT A TRANSFER STUDENT.
I WAS *HELD* BACK.

WHY WERE YOU HELD BACK?
OH! WERE YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?
YOU'RE OLDER, HUH?
OH? SO YOU WERE A YEAR AHEAD OF ME?
SHUT UP!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT.
...SUGIURA, IT'S BETTER NOT TO HANG OUT WITH EBATA.
SLAM!
SHUNK
WOW, AGAIN
I ONLY HEARD IT FROM A FRIEND OF A FRIEND, BUT..
YEAH YEAH
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS QUITE FAMOUS AS A TROUBLE-MAKER LAST YEAR.

I HEARD HE GOT HELD BACK BECAUSE HE WENT TO A REFORM SCHOOL OR SOMETHING...
EBATA!

OUT SMOKING, HUH? LIKE A PUNK.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
...YOU AGAIN?
I JUST HAPPENED TO WALK BY.
.....
I ONLY SMOKE MENTHOLS.
THOUGHT SO.
A GOOD BOY
NOPE.
WANNA TRY ONE?
RIGHT?
YOU SEEM TO PRETEND TO BE ONE.
WELL, YOU KNOW...
WHO ARE YOU TO CALL OTHER PEOPLE PUNKS?

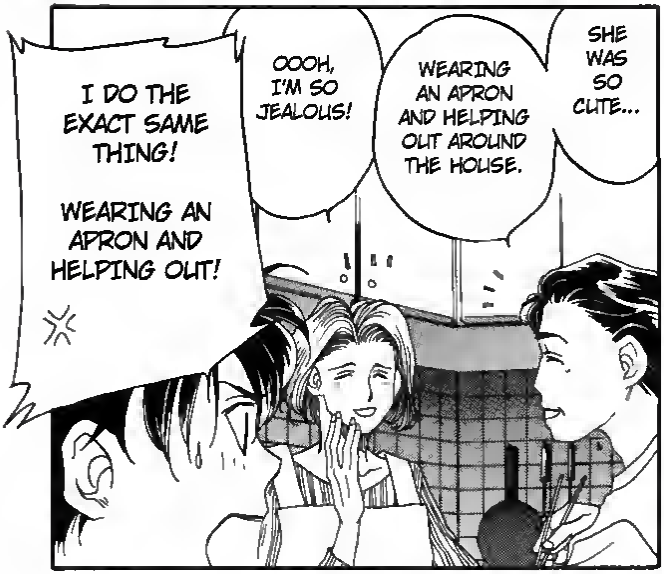
WELL, WHADDA YA KNOW?
YOU'RE A REAL JERK.
YUP.
BUT,
AT LEAST THAT MAKES IT EASY TO HANG OUT WITH YOU.

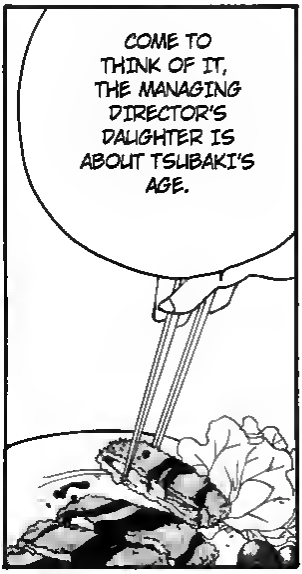
TSUBAKI SUGIURA.
I'M-
I KNOW.
OH, RIGHT, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.
HOW...
I
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
I REALIZED IT WASN'T SO BAD...
.....
...AND IT WAS A PRETTY NAME TOO...
YOU WERE ALWAYS ABSENT WHEN THEY TOOK ATTENDANCE.
I REMEMBER BECAUSE I HEARD IT ALL WEEK.

MY GOODNESS, TSUBAKI...
HMM
HMM
YOUR SCHOOL PANTS ARE ALL MUDDY.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU BOYS ARE SUCH A HANDFUL.
HE'S LEFT-HANDED

HAVING BEEN STUCK AT HOME WITH A COLD...

AND HAVING A NAME I REALLY HATED...


I DO THE EXACT SAME THING!
WEARING AN APRON AND HELPING OUT!
OOOH, I'M SO JEALOUS!
WEARING AN APRON AND HELPING OUT AROUND THE HOUSE.
SHE WAS SO CUTE...



THAT'S RIGHT. WE HAVE NO CHOICE, SILLY BOY.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET YOU DO IT, SILLY.

.....
DO YOU WANT SECONDS?
NOW, EAT UP!

THEY MET IN COLLEGE AT AN OPERA SEMINAR.
THEY BOTH LOVED OPERA.
YOU SEE, MY PARENTS...
WANTED TO HAVE A GIRL.

IF I WAS A GIRL, THEY DREAMED OF NAMING ME AFTER LA TRAVIATA, THE TWO KANJI FOR "CAMELLIA" AND "PRINCESS," PRONOUNCED "TSUBAKI."
BUT, IN THE END, I WAS BORN...
AND THEY "HAD NO CHOICE" BUT TO TAKE OFF THE "PRINCESS" AND JUST USE "CAMELLIA" FOR MY NAME.
IT'S LIKE "WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK I AM?"
WELL, THEY DIDN'T DO QUITE AS MUCH DAMAGE AS YOURS.
IT'S LIKE THEY WANTED TO USE THAT SORT OF NAME REGARDLESS.
MY FAMILY WANTED A GIRL JUST LIKE YOURS DID.
HUH?
.....
MY FIRST NAME IS KAORU.

BUT, IT IS A NICE NAME.
"KAORU"
KAORU EBATA...
KAORU EBATA...
THANKS.

WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR BEING A GUY, DAMN IT!
HA HA! SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
WHAT'S THIS FEELING?
SOMEHOW, I FEEL ALL WARM INSIDE.

IF ONLY YOU THOUGHT THE SAME WAY...
KAORU.
KAORU EBATA?
KAORU-
ABSENT, HUH?

OH MY, OH MY...
OH! ONE OF KAORU'S FRIENDS?
I JUST CAME TO GIVE HIM THE HOMEWORK HANDOUTS...
OH MY, THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO DO THAT.
UM...
PLEASE COME IN. KAORU JUST WOKE UP.
MOM!
HUH?
AND HE GOT HELD BACK THANKS TO ALL OF THAT.
LIKE LAST YEAR, HE GOT BRONCHITIS FOUR TIMES AND PNEUMONIA TWICE,
IT'S ALL BECAUSE THAT BOY HAS ASTHMA.
HE GETS ATTACKS SO OFTEN WHEN THE SEASONS CHANGE.

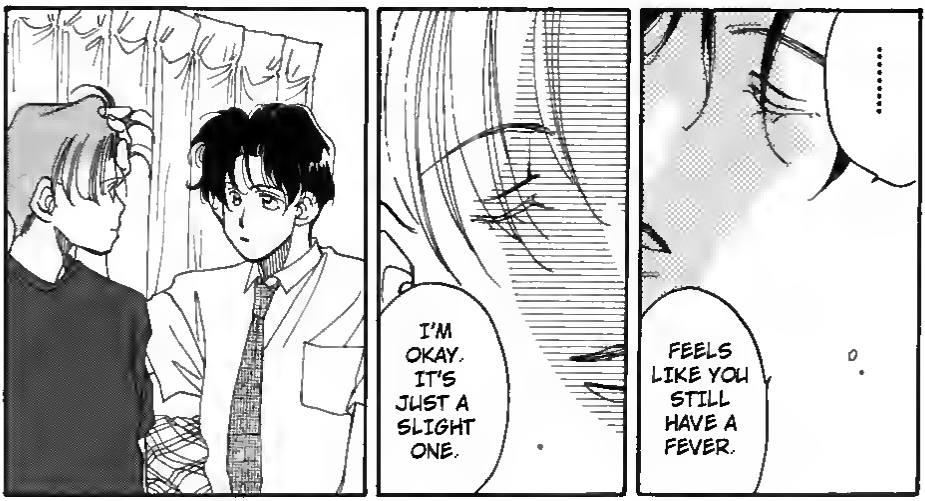
FORGET IT! YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!
OH, WE HAVE CAKE! STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE AND LEMON CHEESE PIE...
GRAB
QUICK, COME HERE, TSUBAKI!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON AND ON ABOUT, YOU IDIOT?
HUFF HUFF
DON'T BE SUCH A BLABBER-MOUTH!
YOU HAVE ASTHMA?
COUGH
COUGH
.....
HUFF HUFF
SUAH!
...WELL, ISN'T IT KIND OF UNCOOL...
WHAT IS?
WELL...
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO? LOTS OF PEOPLE GOT THE WRONG IDEA!
SO, YOU WERE HELD BACK BECAUSE YOU WERE SICK!
COUGH!

"THE SICKLY BULLY," OR SOMETHING...
HUH? YOU'RE A BULLY?
げっほ げっほ ごほ
COUGH COUGH COUGH
THAT WOULD BE HILARIOUS!
SO FUNNY!
HA HA HA
あはははは
BUT NOW I'M ALL ALONE.
LAST YEAR I WAS AROUND A LOT OF GUYS LIKE THAT, SO I JUST KINDA GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT.
YOU DON'T GIVE UP...
I'M THE TYPE WHO'D CALL THE POLICE AS SOON AS A FIGHT STARTS!
NO WAY!
ARE YOU GOOD AT FIGHTING?
BEAMOVO
WELL, I SAY I AM, BUT ACTUALLY...

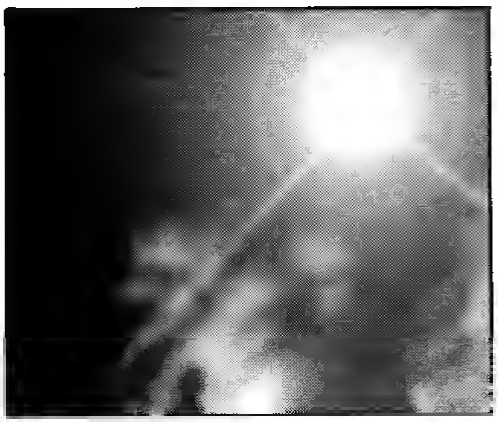
I JUST STARTED TO FEEL LIKE ONE.
SOMEHOW EVERYONE ALWAYS CALLED ME ONE, SO...
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.
REALLY? SO YOU'RE NOT A BULLY AT ALL?
.....

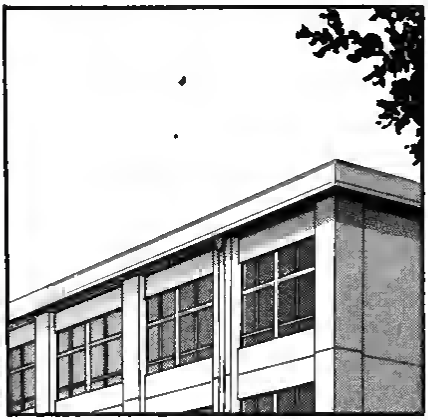
KAORU IS...

KINDA CUTE...


I'M OKAY. IT'S JUST A SLIGHT ONE.
FEELS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER.
.....

THE ENDS OF KAORU'S DYED BROWN HAIR...
WERE FINE AND SILKY.

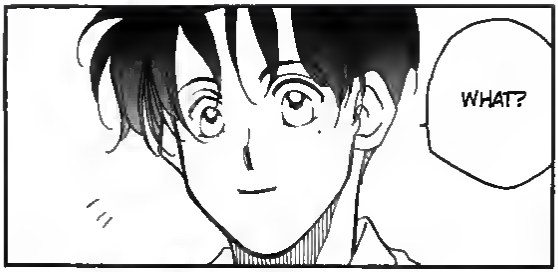


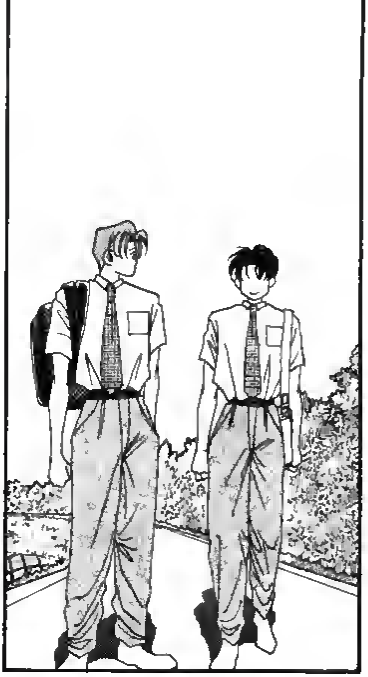


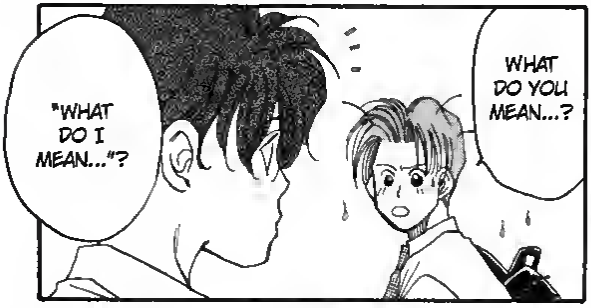
OH, MAN.
THE SEMESTER'S OVER TOMORROW, HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR SUMMER BREAK?
NO IDEA.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO SWIMMING OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S GOOD FOR ASTHMA.
YE-H...
BUT IT'S SUCH A PAIN, AND THE POOL'S ALWAYS CROWDED.
DON'T SAY SUCH NEGATIVE STUFF!
SMACK
LET'S GO TO THE POOL! WE'LL BOTH BECOME DOLPHINS THIS SUMMER!
GASP-

IT'S DEPRESSING...
I HATE THIS HEAT...
SOMEHOW, I WISH...
I COULD BECOME LIKE THE WIND...
YOU KNOW, KAORU...
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU.

LOOK, BASICALLY ...
AH...
THAT WAS A WEIRD WAY OF SAYING IT, HUH?
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I WANT TO SAY "I LIKE YOU."


WHAT?




"WHAT DO I MEAN..."?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

WELL, YEAH...
REALLY?

WHEN YOU SAY "LIKE"...
THERE ARE ALL TYPES OF "LIKE"...

"LOVE" OR JUST "LIKE"...

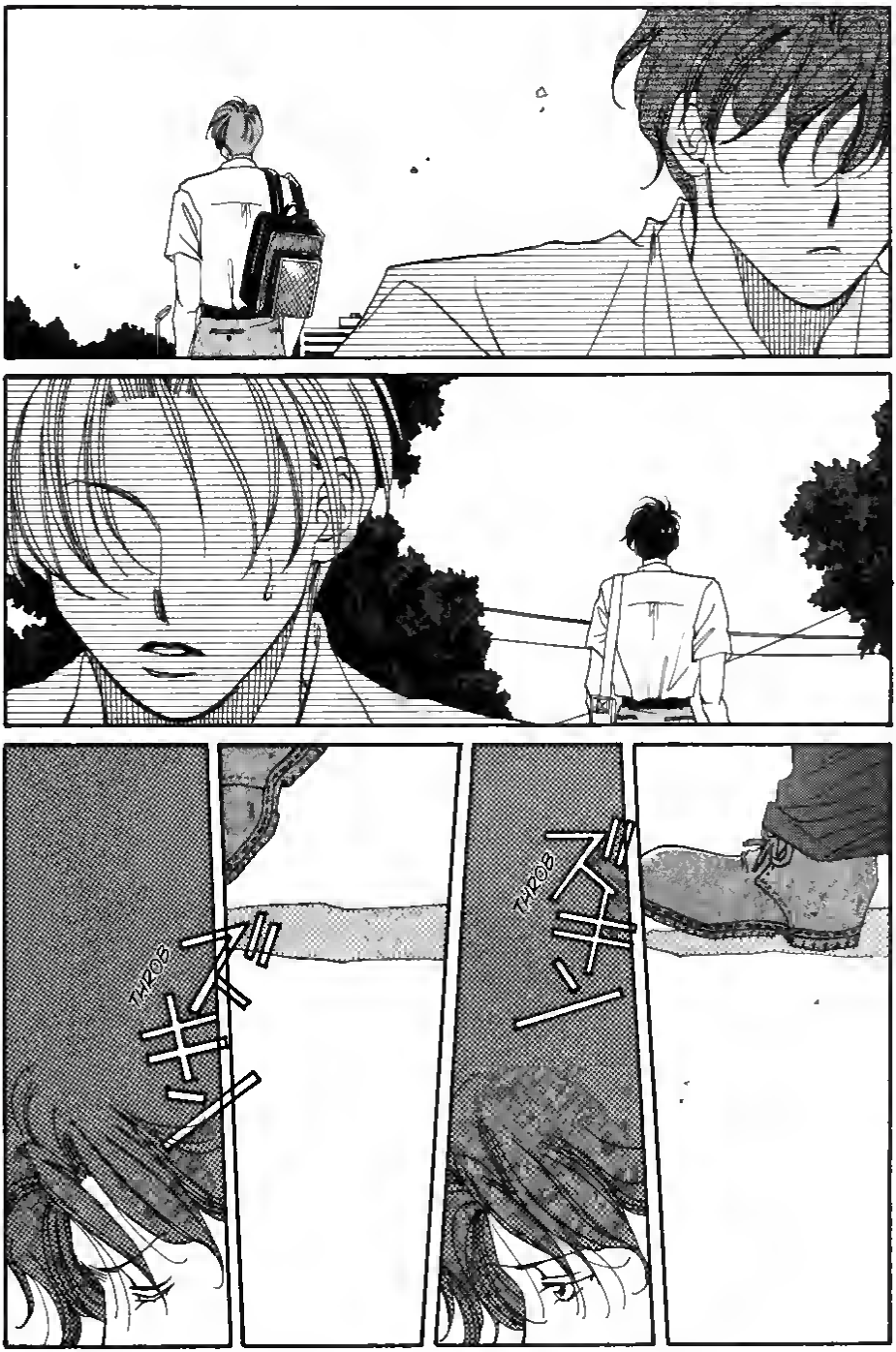
IT'S A STRONG LIKE, SO "LOVE" MAYBE...
AH...
UM...?

IT'S LOVE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID I SAY SOME-THING BAD?

BLUSH
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
...
DON'T ASK SOMETHING SO STUPID!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D EVER LOVE A GUY!

I DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH GUYS!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D FALL IN LOVE WITH GUYS!

I'M SORRY.
WELL...
SEE YOU TOMORROW.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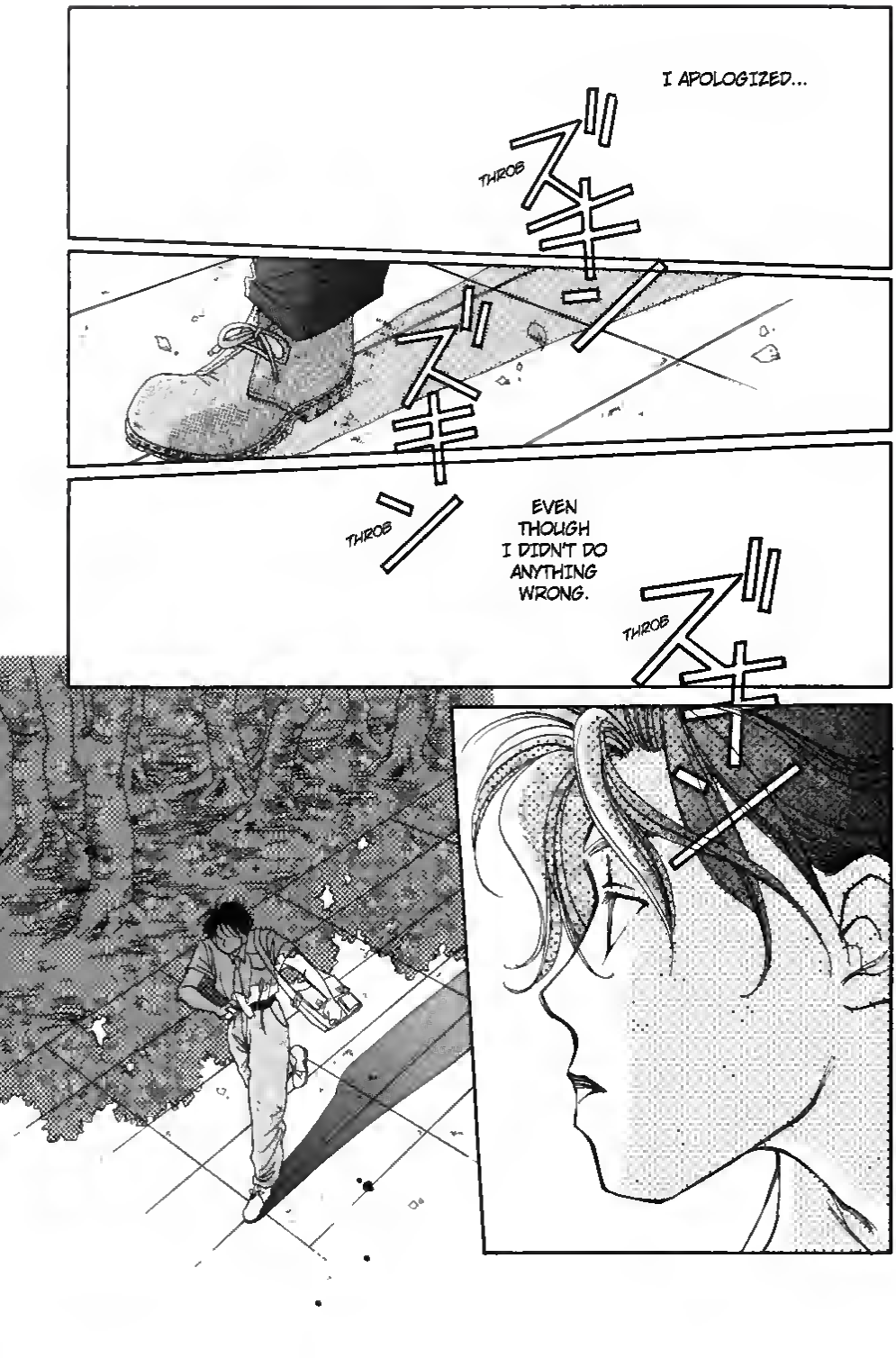
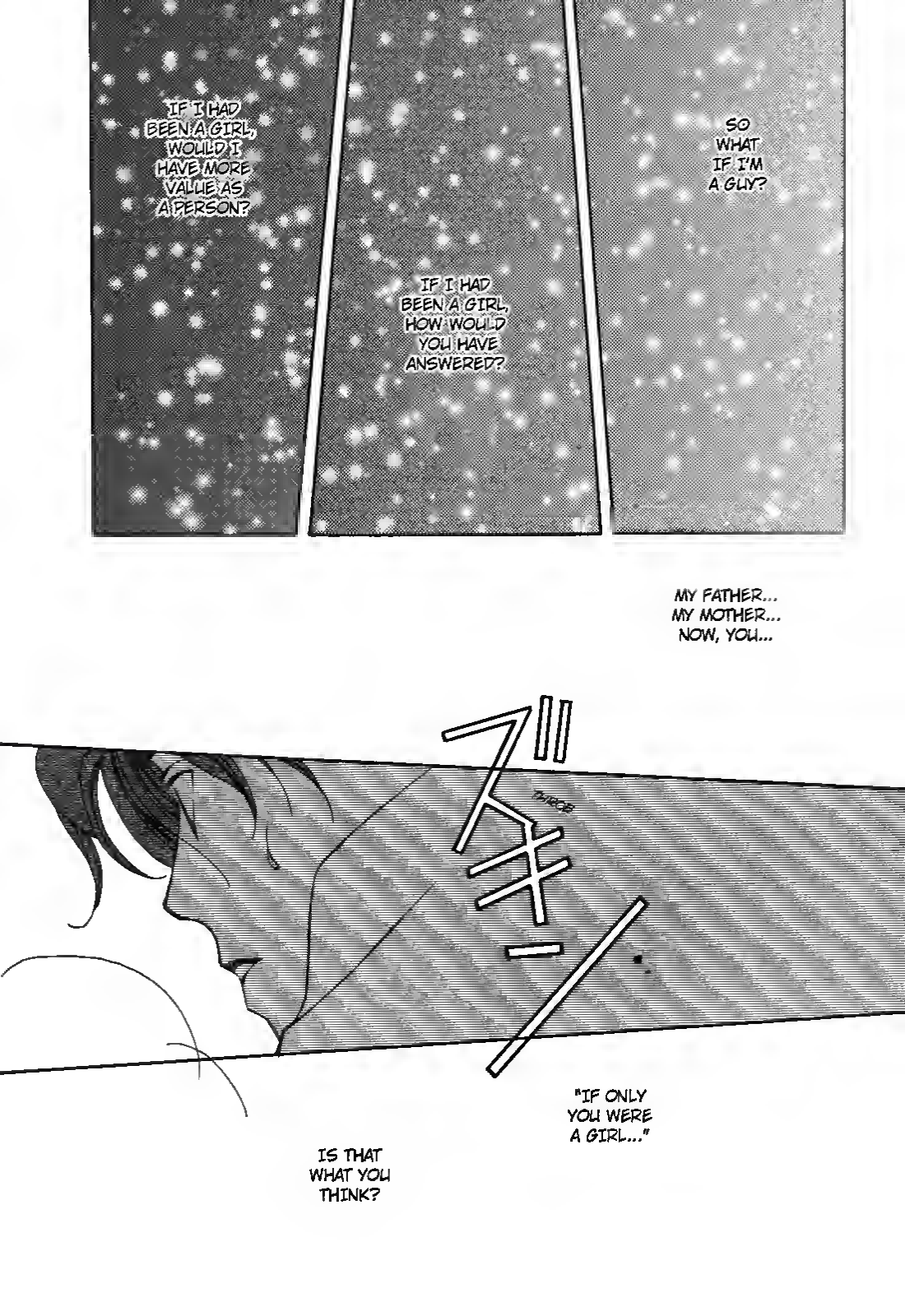
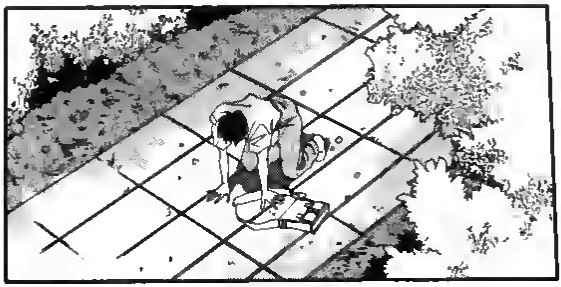
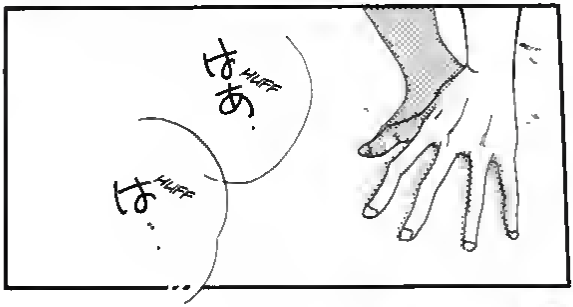
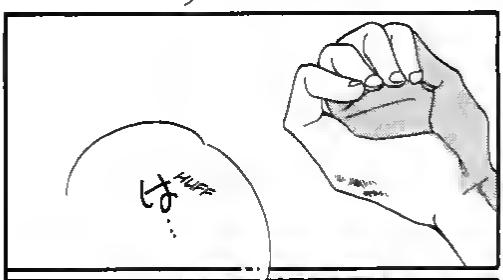

I APOLOGIZED...
THROB
THROB
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
THROB


IF I HAD BEEN A GIRL, WOULD I HAVE MORE VALUE AS A PERSON?
IF I HAD BEEN A GIRL, HOW WOULD YOU HAVE ANSWERED?
SO WHAT IF I'M A GUY?
MY FATHER... MY MOTHER... NOW, YOU...
ナニ
TYPO?
"IF ONLY YOU WERE A GIRL..."
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?

"IF ONLY YOU HAD 'PRINCESS' AT THE END OF YOUR NAME."
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
THEN, WHY...
WHY WAS I BORN A GUY!




はあ HUFF
は HUFF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IT WAS JUST A SCRATCH, BUT...
I CRIED AN UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNT OF TEARS.

WAS ACTUALLY THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS.

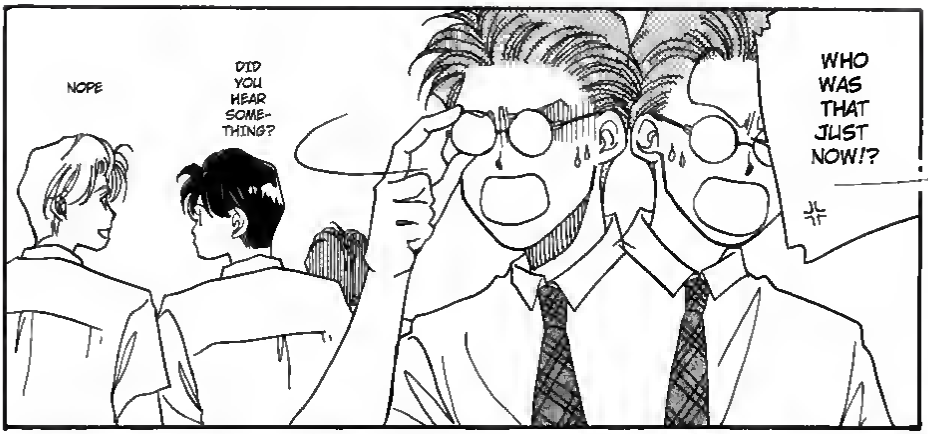
THAT EVENT WHICH I THOUGHT WAS THE END OF SOMETHING...

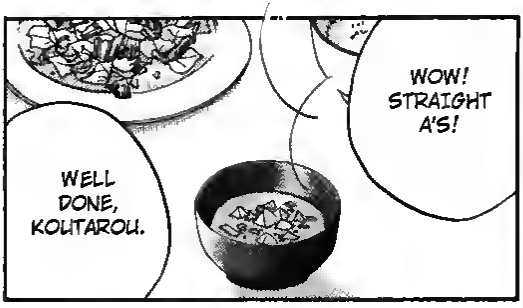
CHAPTER 2: KOUTAROU, PART 1

THE SUMMER WHEN I WAS 14 WAS THE WORST EVER.
I'VE BEEN LOCKED UP IN DARKNESS EVER SINCE THAT TIME.
...UNTIL I MET YOU, THAT IS.

CHATTER
FINAL EXAM RESULTS
期末試験総合
順位 カテゴリ 氏名
1 C 丸山孝
2 A 芳垣重晴
3 A 渡辺直俊
4 B 広瀬稔
5 E 太田幸雄
6 D 熊谷輝良
7 C 皇光太郎
8 A 津吹重行
9 E 岩田憲一
10 B 鈴木伴義
11 C 是沢紀一郎
12 C 田辺吉邦
13 A 那須武比古
14 D 田中栄久
15 E
I'M JUST GOOD AT CRAMMING.
7TH PLACE, HUH?
ALL ACCORDING TO PLAN...
AWESOME! YOU'RE STILL IN THE TOP TEN, KOUTAROU.
WHEN DO YOU EVER STUDY?

IT WAS A GOOD RESULT THAT WOULD SATISFY MY FAMILY WITHOUT RAISING THEIR EXPECTATIONS OR DRAWING DISAPPROVAL FROM MY PEERS.
IT WAS PERFECT.
IT'S THE TOP STUDENT, MARUYAMA.
HU-HUH
YOU GOT LUCKY. TAKING THE TOP SPOT WITH ONLY 460 POINTS.
WHISPER
ボソ
ピク
SHOCK


NOPE
DID YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
WHO WAS THAT JUST NOW!?


WELL DONE, KOUTAROU.
WOW! STRAIGHT A'S!

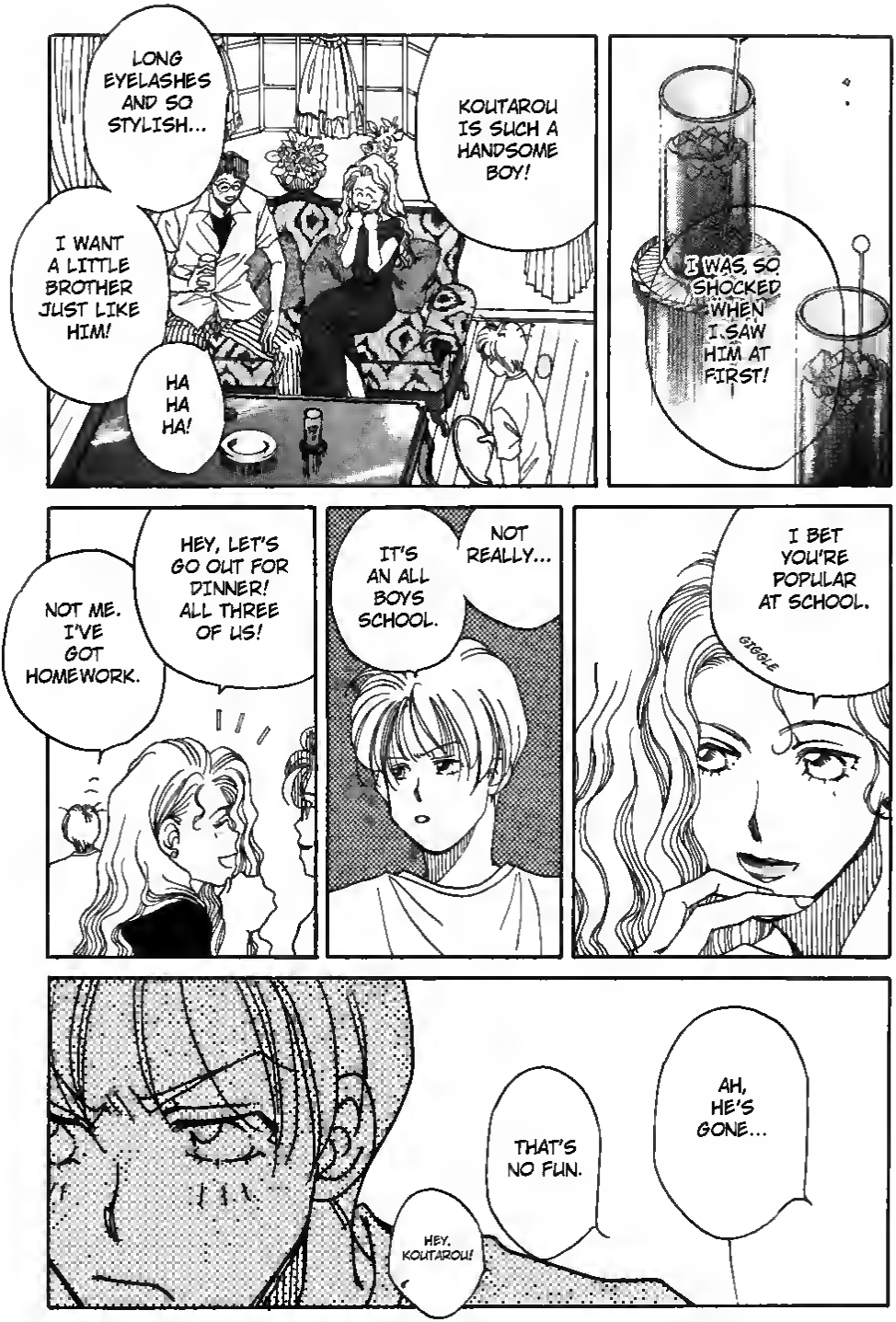
DAD WILL BE HAPPY.
REPORT CARD
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, IT WAS A VERY DIFFERENT STORY.

STOP IT, WILL YOU?
JUNIOR HIGH GRADES DON'T MEAN MUCH IN THE LONG RUN ANYWAY.
ONCE YOU'RE OVER 20, YOU BECOME AN AVERAGE PERSON.

MY PARENTS DIVORCED WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
YES, YES.
SECOND PLEASE
FROM THEN ON, THE TAKAMURA FAMILY BECAME AN ALL-MALE GROUP OF A FATHER AND TWO BROTHERS.
IS SOMEONE I THINK OF LIKE A MOTHER.
DON'T SAY COOL STUFF LIKE THAT.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WORK HARD BUT NEVER GET REWARDED.
MY BROTHER, WHO IS 8 YEARS OLDER THAN ME...
SUMMER BREAK STARTS TOMORROW, SO I'LL BE IN CHARGE OF MEALS, OKAY?
SO IT FELT LIKE IT WAS JUST THE TWO OF US.
OH, YEAH, DAICHI...
MOREOVER, MY DAD WASN'T HOME MUCH BECAUSE OF HIS BUSINESS TRIPS.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'M GOOD AT ANYTHING I DO, LIKE STUDYING OR SPORTS...
BUT...
HEY, LET'S GO SWIMMING SOMETIME...
AT WILD BLUE YOKOHAMA...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SUMMER COURSES?
I SAID IT'S FINE.
NO, IT'S FINE.
THAT'S OKAY. YOU HAVE SUMMER COURSES, RIGHT?
I SAID I'D DO THE HOUSE-WORK

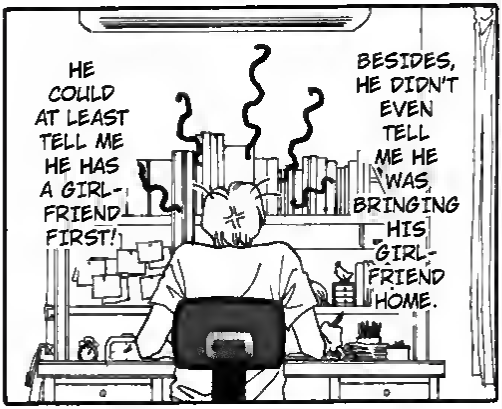
WHERE I LOST TO HIM.
THERE WAS ONE VERY CRITICAL POINT...

HM?
UM...
THIS IS THE TAKAMURA RESIDENCE, RIGHT?
YES, BUT...
IT'S RIGHT THERE ON THE NAMEPLATE.
SHIHO!
SORRY, SHIHO, I WANTED TO GO PICK YOU UP...
IT'S OKAY. IT WAS EASY TO FIND.
THIS IS YOUR LITTLE BROTHER? NICE TO MEET YOU.
YEAH...


LONG EYELASHES AND SO STYLISH...
KOUTAROU IS SUCH A HANDSOME BOY!
I WANT A LITTLE BROTHER JUST LIKE HIM!
HA HA HA!
I WAS SO SHOCKED WHEN I SAW HIM AT FIRST!
HEY, LET'S GO OUT FOR DINNER! ALL THREE OF US!
NOT ME. I'VE GOT HOMEWORK.
IT'S AN ALL BOYS SCHOOL.
NOT REALLY...
I BET YOU'RE POPULAR AT SCHOOL.
GIGGLE
AH, HE'S GONE...
THAT'S NO FUN.
HEY, KOUTAROU!

I TOTALLY MIS-JUDGED DAICHI TO BE DATING SOME-ONE LIKE THAT!
SHE EMITS AN AURA OF STUPIDITY FROM HEAD TO TOE!

STUPID, STUPID, STUPID!
DATING STUPID PEOPLE WILL INFECT YOU WITH STUPIDITY, STUPID!


HE COULD AT LEAST TELL ME HE HAS A GIRL-FRIEND FIRST!
BESIDES, HE DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME HE WAS BRINGING HIS GIRL-FRIEND HOME.

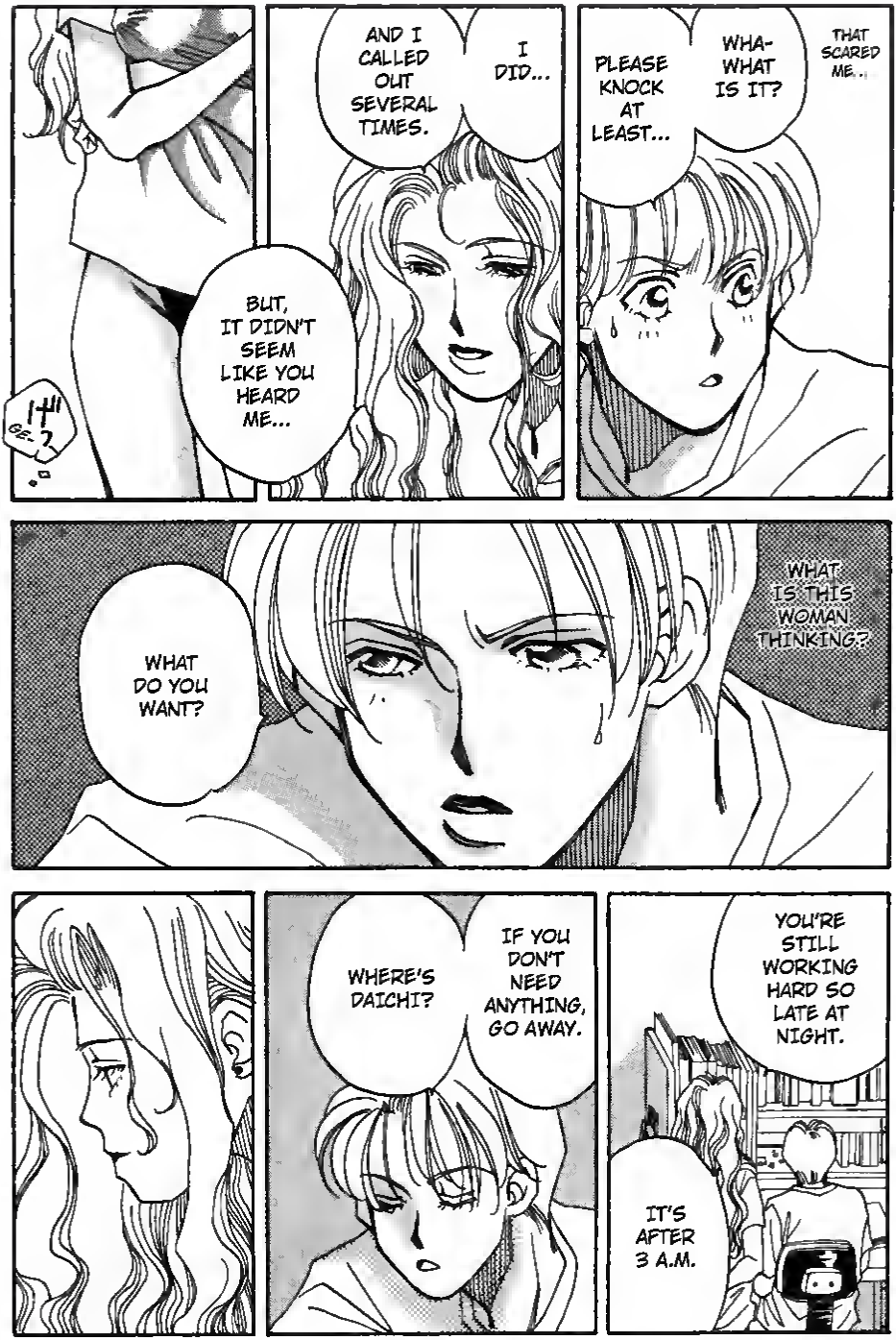
KOUTAROU?
KOUTAROU...

WHO THE HELL IS THAT WOMAN!

I'M NOT MAD. I'M NOT MAD AT ALL.
DON'T BE MAD. SORRY ABOUT BRINGING HER OVER SUDDENLY.
IT'S FINE. YOU TWO GO!
YOU'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?
WE'RE GOING TO GO EAT...
HALF A YEAR!?
I DIDN'T KNOW FOR 6 MONTHS..
GAAA-
PIK
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
ABOUT HALF A YEAR, I GUESS.
HUH? OH.
WE WORK AT THE SAME COMPANY.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DATING?
SO, TRY TO BE COURTEOUS.
SHE'S STAYING OVER TONIGHT.

SEE YOU LATER.
CLICK
"STAYING OVER...?"
.....
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WHAT A SELFISH JERK!
PAK

PA-

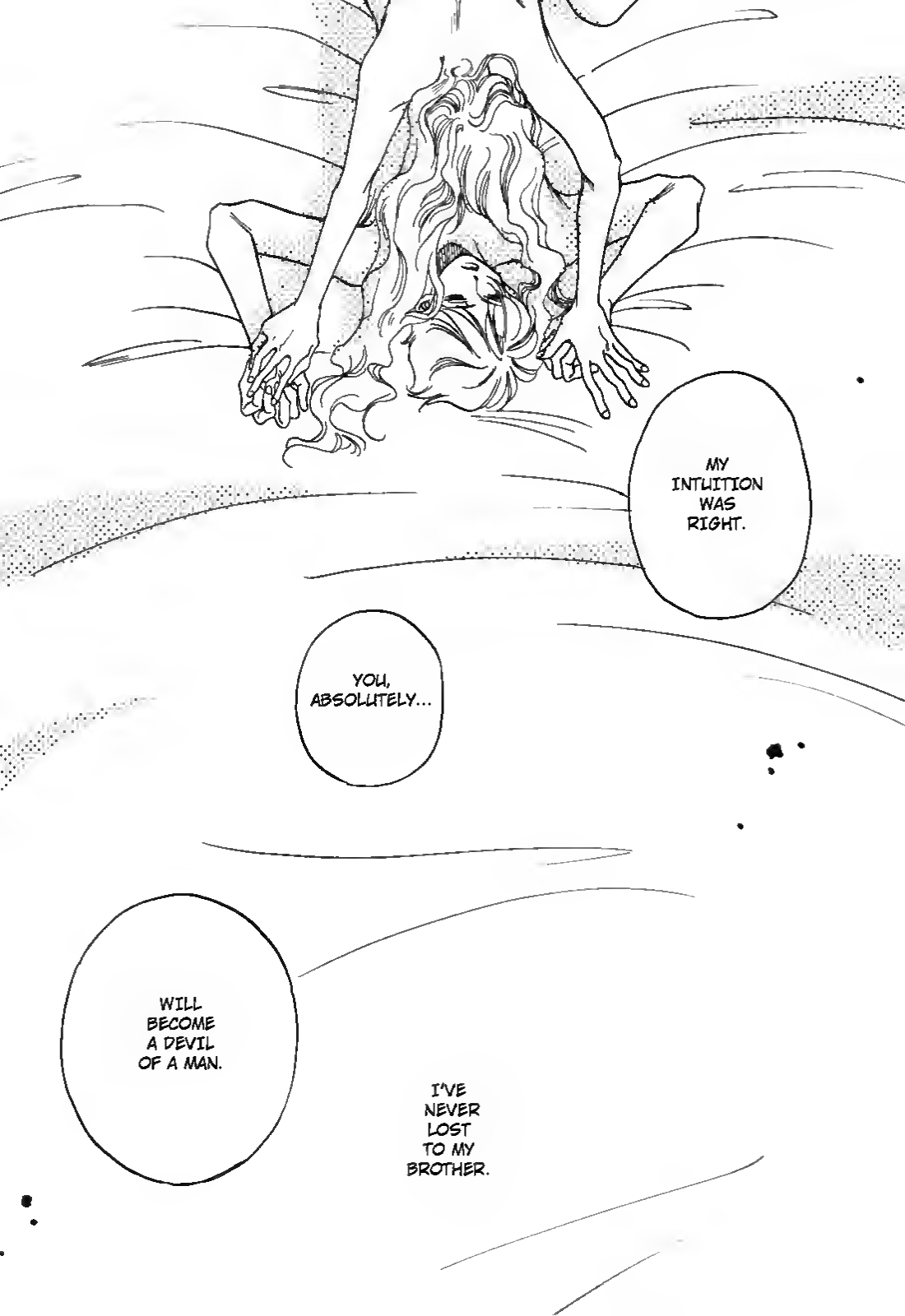

THAT SCARED ME..
WHA- WHAT IS IT?
PLEASE KNOCK AT LEAST...
I DID...
AND I CALLED OUT SEVERAL TIMES.
BUT, IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU HEARD ME...
WHAT IS THIS WOMAN THINKING?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU'RE STILL WORKING HARD SO LATE AT NIGHT.
IT'S AFTER 3 A.M.
IF YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING, GO AWAY.
WHERE'S DAICHI?

HE'S ALREADY ASLEEP.
IT'S OKAY.
SHIHO...
YEAH?

JUST NOW YOU WERE...
DOING IT WITH MY BROTHER, RIGHT?
YEAH, I WAS.
WHAT'S WRONG?
WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT IT?

SLUMP
HORRIBLE.
DO YOU...
WANT TO TRY IT TOO?
IT'S HORRIBLE.
DAICHI, THIS IS THE TYPE OF WOMAN...
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH.

THIS WOMAN...
BREAK UP WITH HER.
KOUTAROU
BREAK UP...
'CAUSE YOU'RE SO MUCH SEXIER...
YOU SEEM SO MUCH MORE DANGEROUS, SO MUCH MORE AMAZING.
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT YOU IN THE NEXT ROOM...
EVEN...
EVEN WHEN I WAS DOING IT WITH DAICHI...


MY INTUITION WAS RIGHT.
YOU, ABSOLUTELY...
WILL BECOME A DEVIL OF A MAN.
I'VE NEVER LOST TO MY BROTHER.

I WAS SPOILED BY ADULTS AND ALL THE BEST PARTS OF LIFE WERE MINE.
MY GRADES IN SCHOOL... MY ATHLETIC ABILITY... EVEN THE AMOUNT OF CHOCOLATE I GOT ON VALENTINE'S DAY... I SURPASSED HIM LONG AGO.
AND TO ENSURE MY FUTURE, HE UNDERTOOK ALL THE HOUSEWORK AND DEDICATED HIMSELF TO THE ROLE OF MY MOTHER.
BECAUSE OF THAT, MY BROTHER GAVE UP ON ALL HIS OWN PLANS...

I TRULY...

LOVED HIM.

SIZZLE
HERE'S THE WEATHER THIS MORNING
LOOKS LIKE CLEAR SKIES FOR MOST OF THE COUNTRY TODAY
SURELY, THEY HAD ALREADY BROKEN UP...
MY BROTHER DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT HER EITHER.
AFTER THAT, TWO MONTHS PASSED...
WITHOUT ME SEEING SHIHO AGAIN.

NOTHING...
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S IT.
SHE...
HOW OLD WERE YOU FOR YOUR "FIRST TIME"?
HEY, DAICHI...
YEAH?

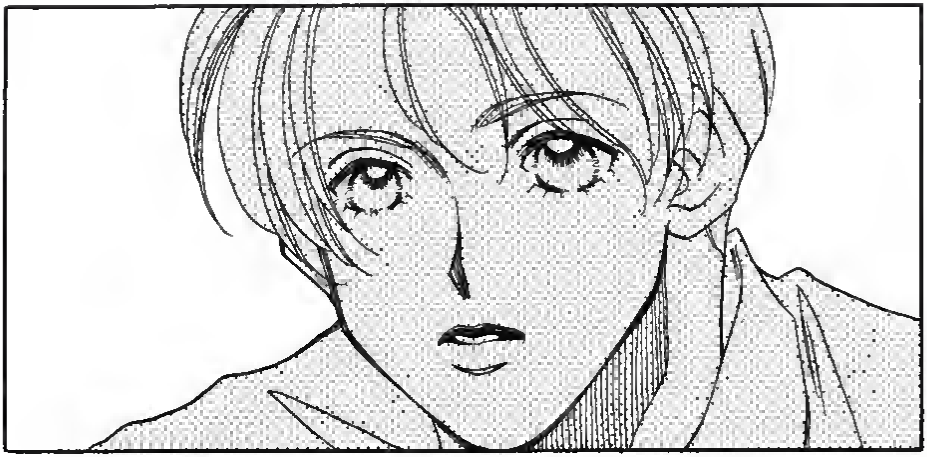
.....
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
SURE! WHY NOT?
WHAT ON EARTH? FIRST THING IN THE MORNING...
I WAS 18.
WELL, IT'S GOOD TO KNOW.
DAICHI, I'M 14...
OH, JUST SHUT UP AND FINISH EATING.
SO, EVEN YOU DID THAT STUFF.
OH, 18. AROUND THAT TIME, HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THE WEIRD REACTION?

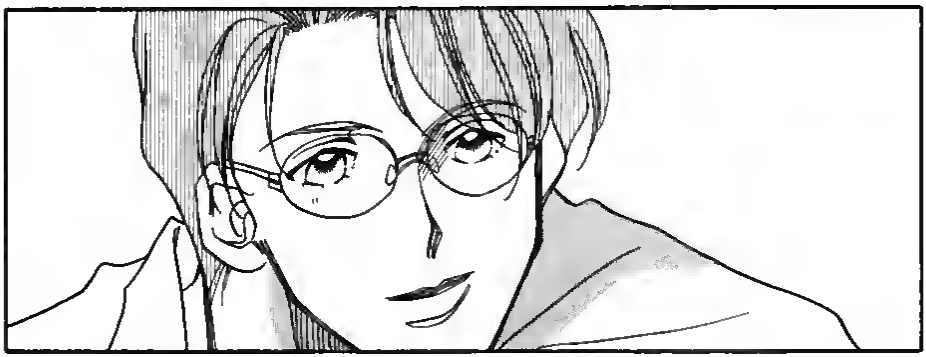
AS AN ADULT. (19 YEARS OLD)
■ KOUTAROU TAKAMURA
HIS NAME WAS TAKEN FROM THE WRITER, KOUTAROU TAKAMURA, BUT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR IT. HE'S NOT A WRITER I PARTICULARLY LIKE. (I DON'T READ BOOKS...)
MY BRAIN IS COMPLETELY EMPTY...
AT FIRST, SHE ACTED ALL SUPERIOR AND TOYED AROUND WITH ME, BUT...
BLACKCAT
BY THE TIME MORNING CAME, SHE HAD GONE COMPLETELY CRAZY FOR ME.
ARE YOU OKAY ON TIME?
IT'S ALREADY 10 TILL.
AS ALWAYS, I WIN AGAIN.
JUST 'CAUSE HE HAD TO BRING UP SOME STUPID TOPIC.
GA-SHOOT!
GATAN!

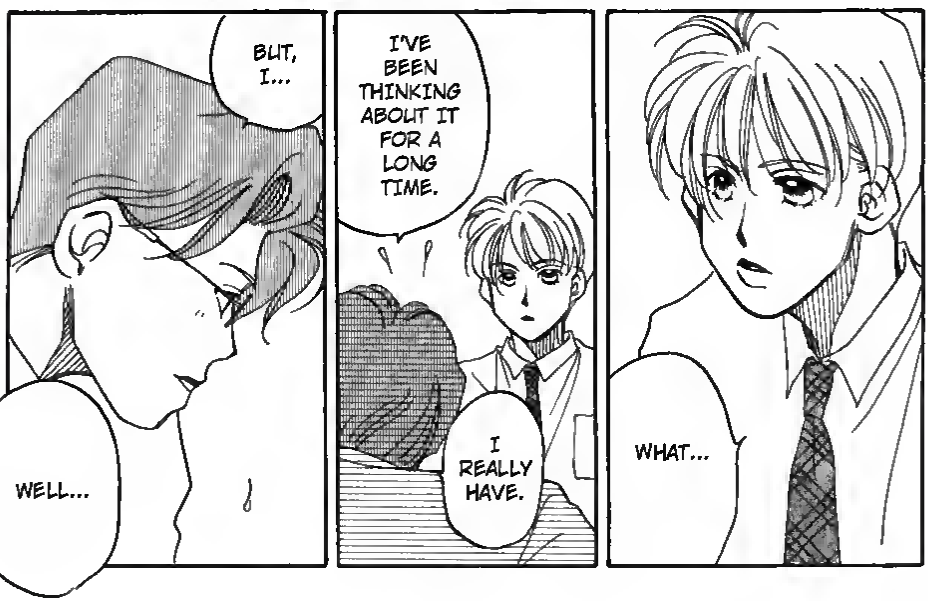
THANKS FOR THAT.
I TRULY...
YEP.
I WASHED THEM FOR YOU YESTERDAY.
AH! MY SHOES ARE CLEAN!
HELP ME TIE MY SHOES!
OKAY, OKAY.
OH, KOUTAROU.
WHAT TIME WILL YOU BE COMING HOME TONIGHT?
HUH?
LOVE MY BROTHER.

SHIHO'S COMING OVER TONIGHT.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. DAD RETURNS FROM HIS BUSINESS TRIP TODAY.
I'LL COME HOME RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL ENDS.
YEAH, THAT TOO, BUT...
I THOUGHT DAD SHOULD MEET HER, TOO.

I'LL TELL DAD PROPERLY TONIGHT,
BUT I'LL ANNOUNCE IT TO YOU FIRST.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? OF COURSE I AM.
YOU'RE STILL... GOING OUT WITH HER...
WE'RE GETTING MARRIED.

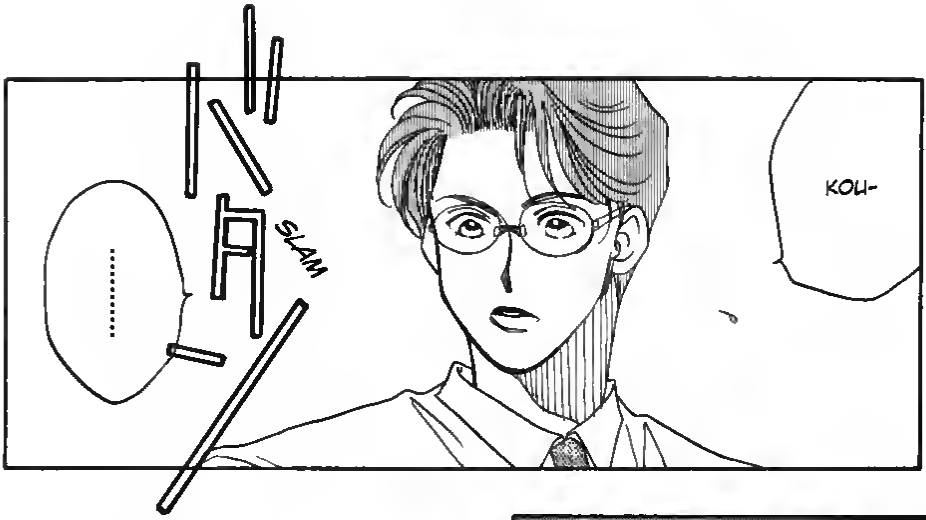




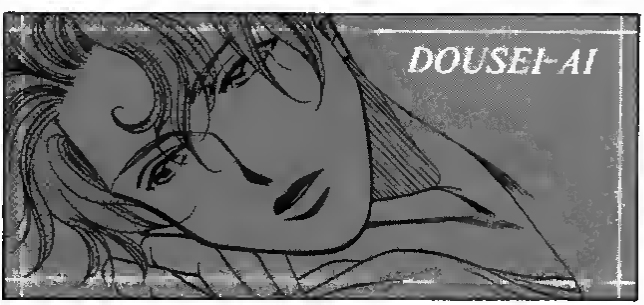

WELL...
BUT, I...
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME.
I REALLY HAVE.
WHAT...

SHE'S PREGNANT.
SO, WELL...
I GUESS IT WAS THE TIME TO DO IT.
I GUESS THE TIME TO MAKE A DECISION HAD COME.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO GET DAD'S CONSENT AND PUT HER ON THE FAMILY REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HER PARENTS ALREADY KNOW, SO...
SHE'S TWO MONTHS ALONG NOW.
THERE YOU GO
—
OF COURSE, YOU'LL GIVE US YOUR BLESSING. RIGHT, KOUTAROU?
ガチャ


SLAM
.....
KOU-

CHAPTER 3: KOUTAROU, PART 2


DOUSEI-AI

STUMBLING INTO A DARK ABYSS...
I STAGGER
THE SKY TILTS.

SUCH A BEAUTIFUL LADY, AND SMART AS WELL.
YOU MUST BE VERY POPULAR... ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH MY SON?
生
OH, YOU WENT TO THAT WOMEN'S COLLEGE.
WELL, THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.
I COMPLETELY RELY ON HIM. I MIGHT BE A BURDEN, BUT...
OH, DON'T...
DAICHI IS A VERY HARD WORKING PERSON.
DAICHI IS NOT A PARTICULARLY WORTHWHILE OR ACCOMPLISHED SON, BUT...
OF COURSE.
PLEASE GIVE ME ANY GUIDANCE YOU CAN, FATHER.

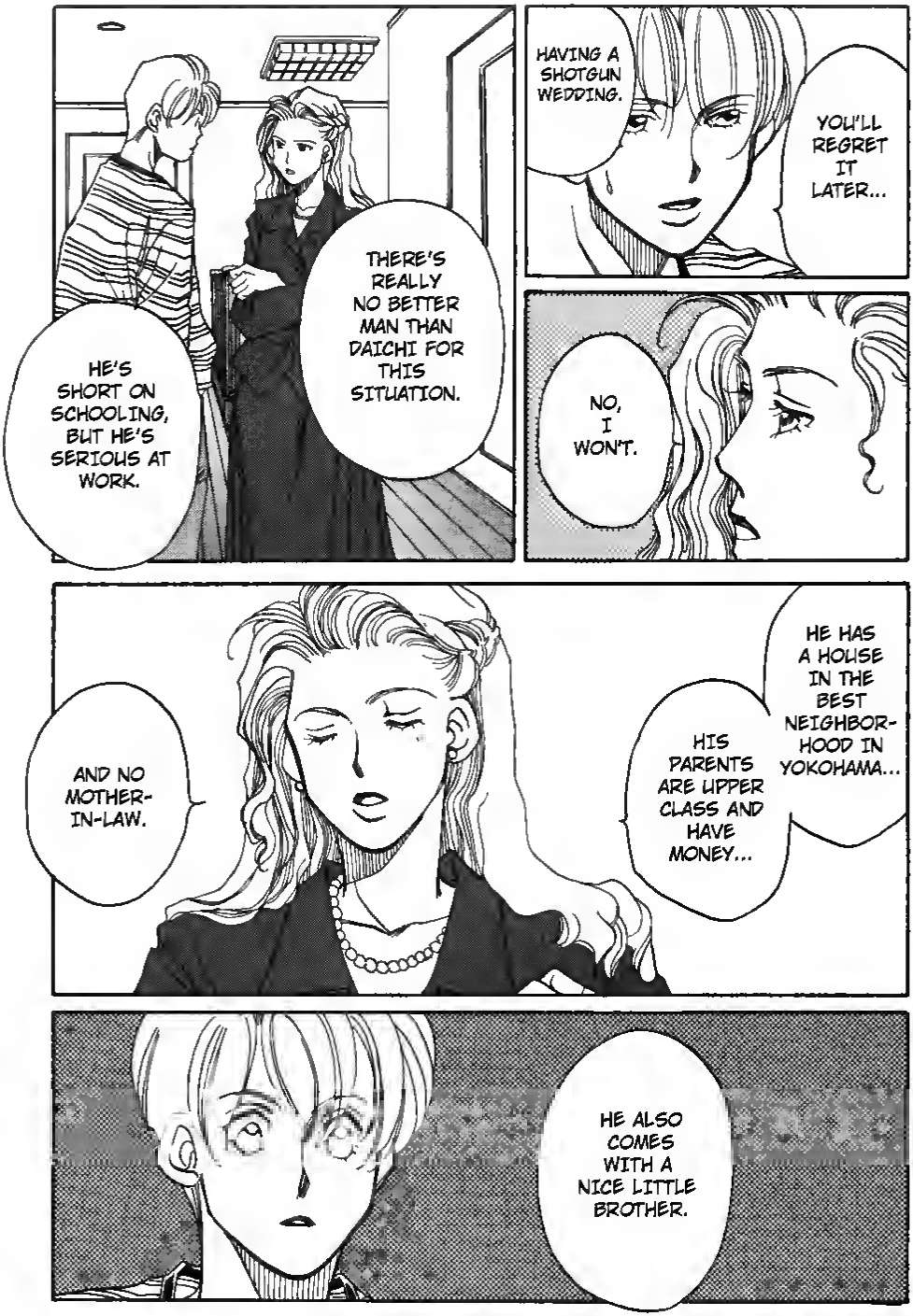
KOUTAROU IS SO LUCKY TO GET SUCH A NICE SISTER.
RIGHT, KOUTAROU?
TO WELCOME SUCH A WONDERFUL WOMAN AS A DAUGHTER IS MORE THAN I HAD HOPED FOR.
IT'S SUCH A PLEASURE.
OH, NO. THE PLEASURE'S ALL MINE...
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, KOUTAROU.
I

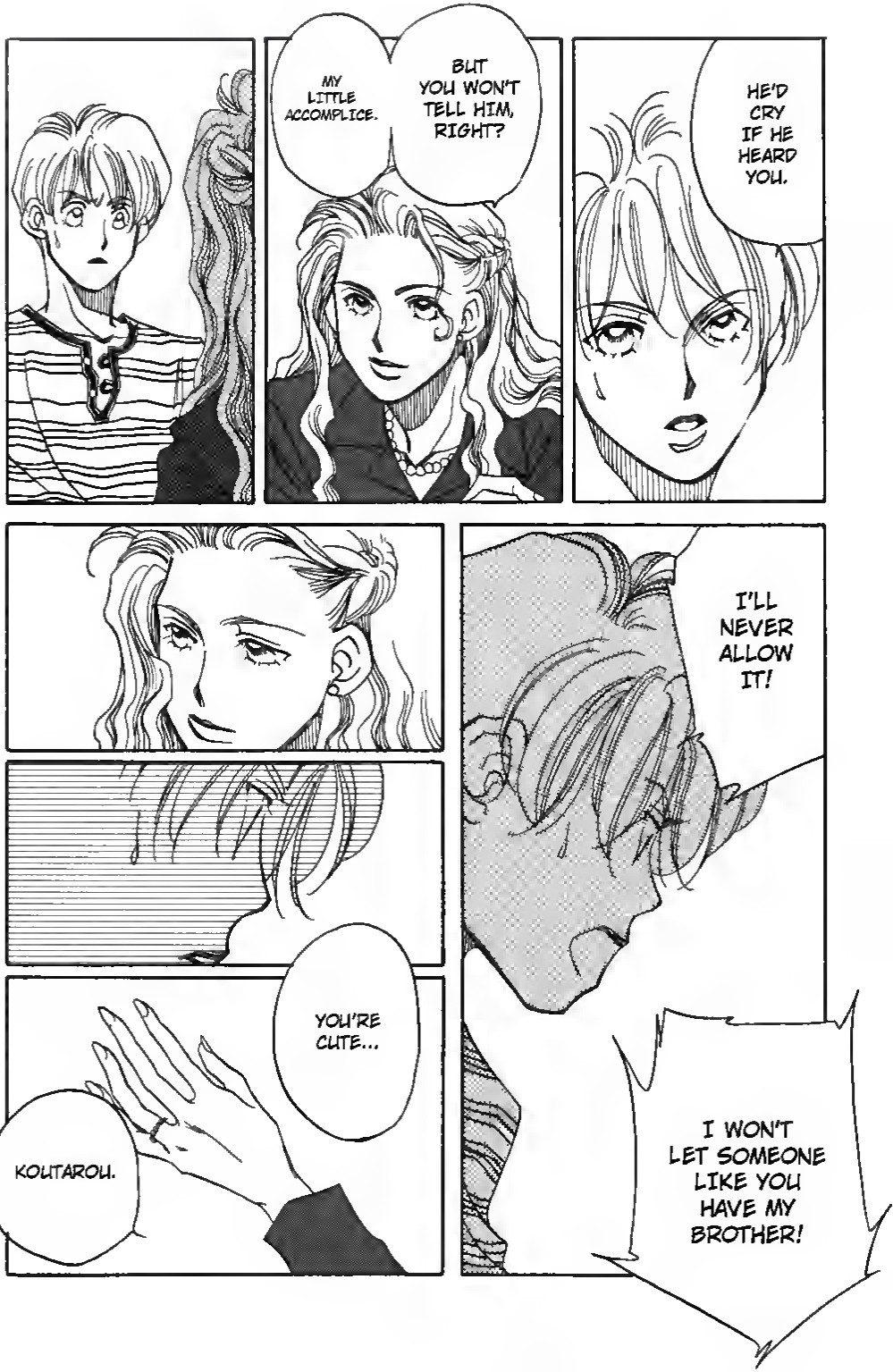
SORRY, BUT I KINDA HAVE A HEADACHE.
I'M GONNA GO LIE DOWN.
KATTAAN
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
ARE YOU OKAY?
EVERYONE GOING ON AND ON LIKE IDIOTS.
YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME MEDICINE...
KOUTAROU!
SOME COMPANY!

NOW, NOW. THIS HAS TO WORK OUT WELL.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE THAT ATTITUDE?
"WORK OUT WELL?" FOR YOU?
FOR EVERYONE, RIGHT?
CALM DOWN. THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
SCREW YOU!
STOP KIDDING YOURSELF!

I
YOUR BLOOD TYPE IS B, RIGHT?
I ASKED DAICHI.
WORRY ABOUT WHAT?
I'M...
AB.
AND DAICHI IS TYPE A.
NOTHING BAD WILL COME OF IT.
NO MATTER WHAT THE BLOOD TYPE OF THE CHILD IS...

I WILL RAISE IT AS DAICHI'S CHILD.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT?
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO ABORT IT?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. BESIDES, IT COULD BE DAICHI'S CHILD...
WE CAN'T HELP WHAT'S ALREADY HAPPENED. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS!


HE'S SHORT ON SCHOOLING, BUT HE'S SERIOUS AT WORK.
THERE'S REALLY NO BETTER MAN THAN DAICHI FOR THIS SITUATION.
HAVING A SHOTGUN WEDDING.
YOU'LL REGRET IT LATER...
NO, I WON'T.
AND NO MOTHER-IN-LAW.
HIS PARENTS ARE UPPER CLASS AND HAVE MONEY...
HE HAS A HOUSE IN THE BEST NEIGHBOR-HOOD IN YOKOHAMA...
HE ALSO COMES WITH A NICE LITTLE BROTHER.

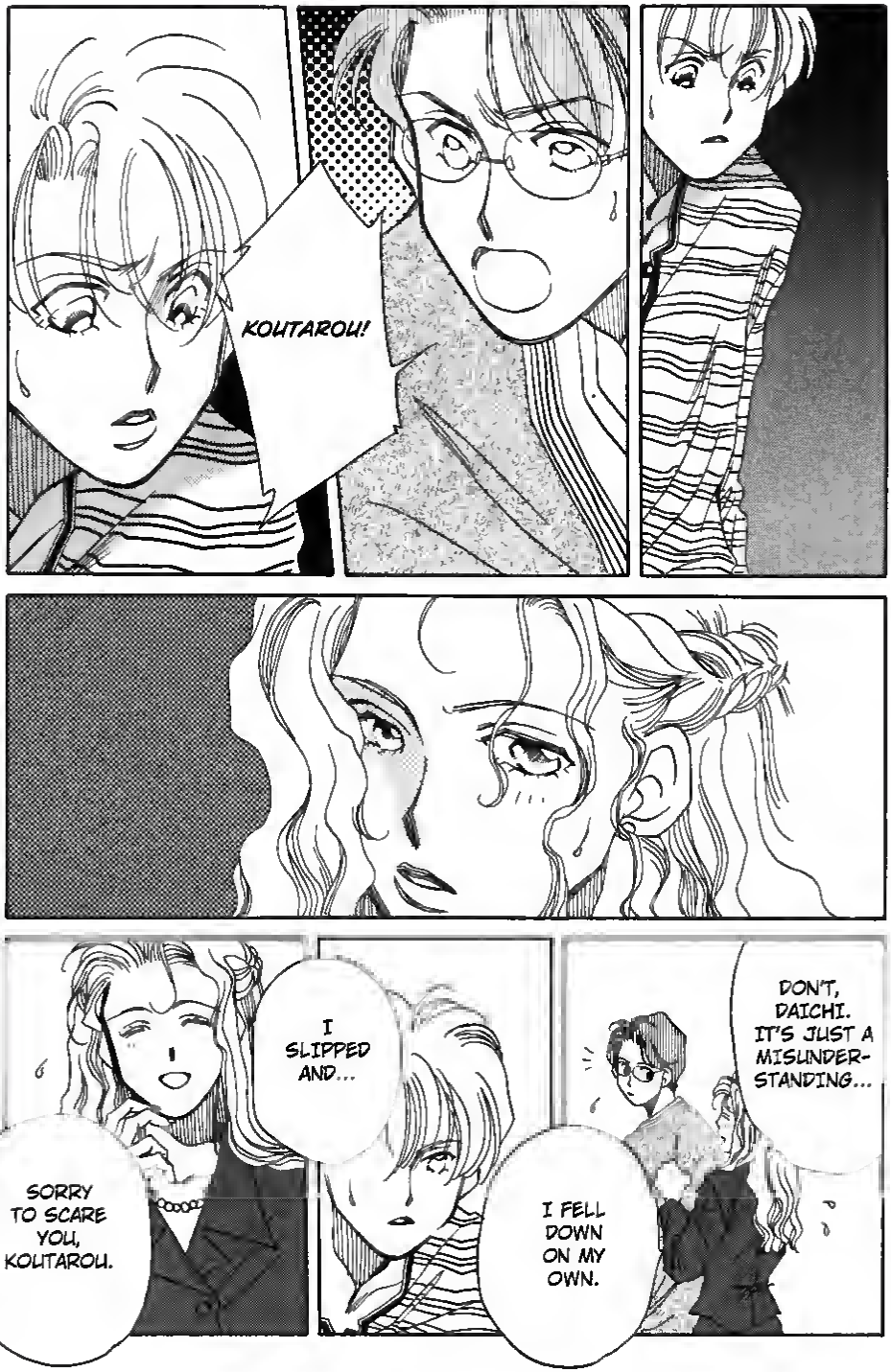

HE'D CRY IF HE HEARD YOU.
BUT YOU WON'T TELL HIM, RIGHT?
MY LITTLE ACCOMPLICE.
I'LL NEVER ALLOW IT!
I WON'T LET SOMEONE LIKE YOU HAVE MY BROTHER!
YOU'RE CUTE...
KOUTAROU.

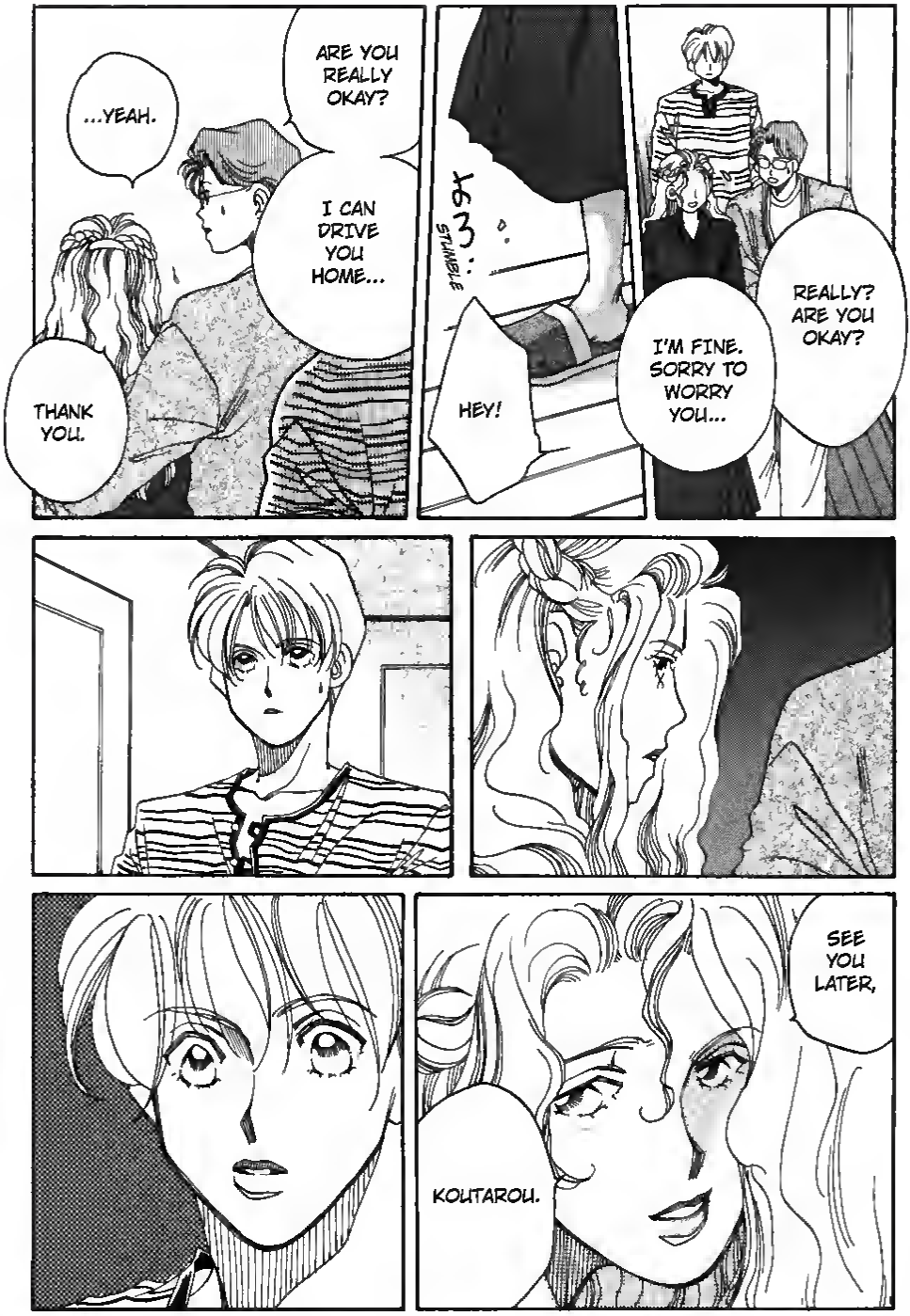
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAD SEX WITH ME.
YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO TAKE AWAY YOUR BROTHER.
YOU DIDN'T WANT AN OUTSIDER IN THAT WORLD YOU TWO HAVE.
—
DON'T THROW A TANTRUM.
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.
—

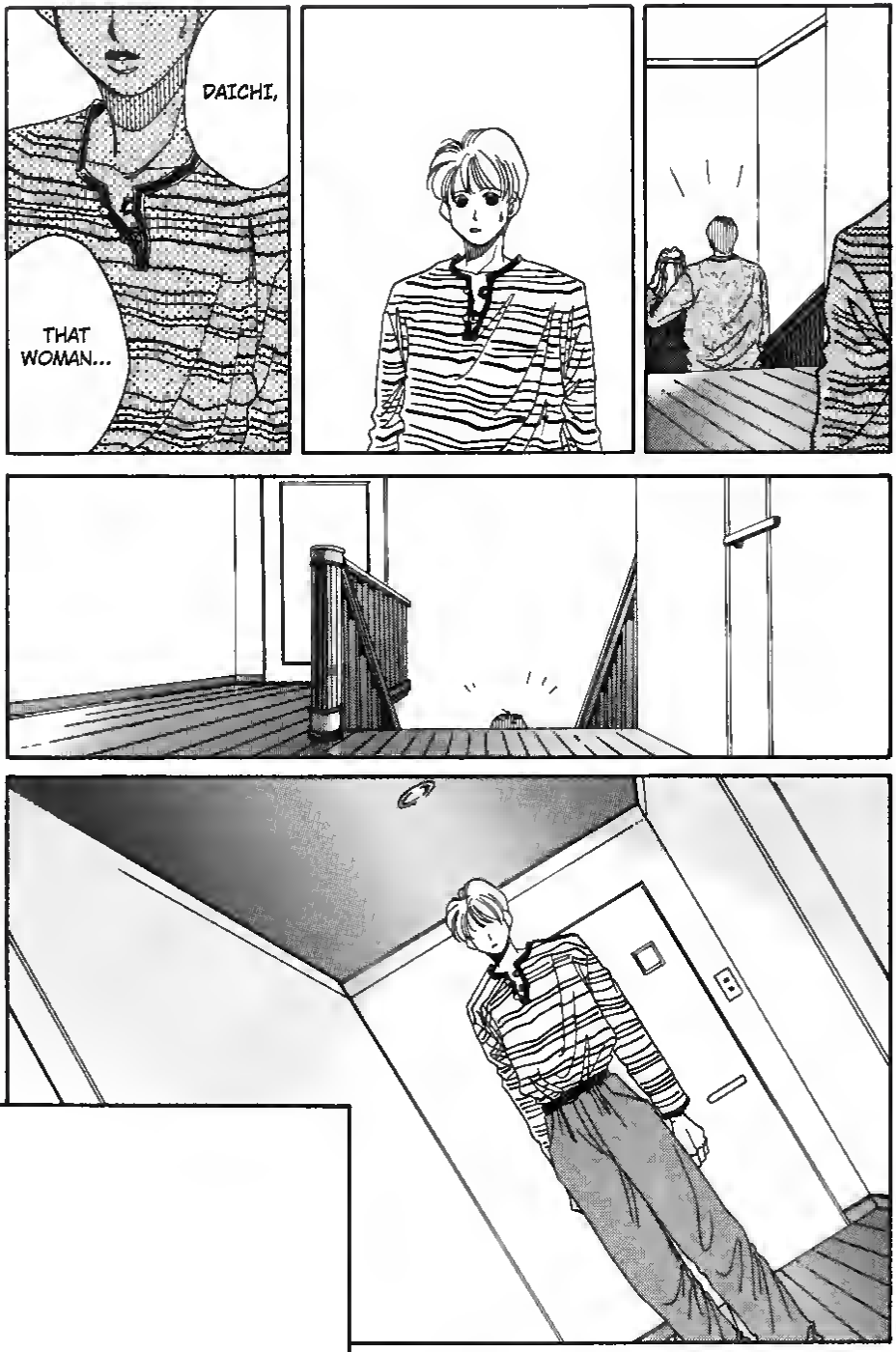
THWUMP
THUD

THUNK
THUNK
NO-
AH!
THUD
SHIHO?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
STOMP
STOMP
KOUTAROU! WHAT HAPPENED?!
HEY!
"NOTHING" ...
AAH...
IT'S NOTHING...


KOUTAROU!
DON'T, DAICHI. IT'S JUST A MISUNDER-STANDING...
I FELL DOWN ON MY OWN.
I SLIPPED AND...
SORRY TO SCARE YOU, KOUTAROU.


ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
...YEAH.
I CAN DRIVE YOU HOME...
THANK YOU.
STUMBLE
HEY!
I'M FINE. SORRY TO WORRY YOU...
REALLY? ARE YOU OKAY?
SEE YOU LATER,
KOUTAROU.


DAICHI,
THAT WOMAN...

I'M HOME.
.....
SSSHHH
CLINK
DOING THE DISHES FOR ME?
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
SAY, KOUTAROU...

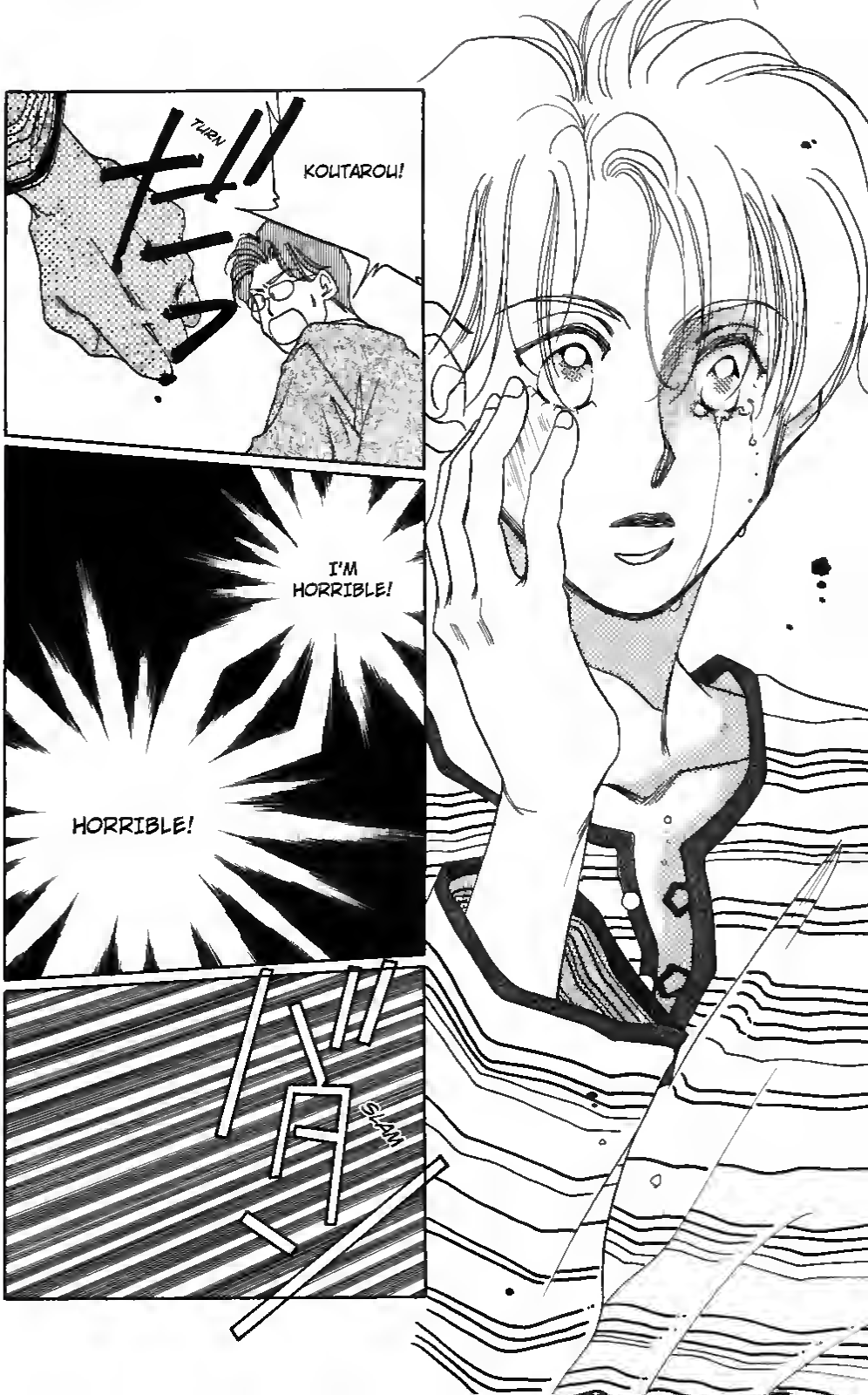
MAKE AMENDS WITH SHIHO.
I KNOW YOU'RE FRUSTRATED, BUT...
SHE SAYS YOU WON'T OPEN UP TO HER...
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING HER.
SHE'S A PART OF OUR FAMILY NOW,
OKAY?

HUH?
DAICHI,
CAN I BE HONEST WITH YOU?
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO MARRY A WOMAN LIKE THAT?
WAKE UP!
SHE'S NOT THE TYPE OF WOMAN YOU THINK SHE IS!

I JUST GET THAT FEELING ...
SOMEHOW...
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO... NOTHING... BUT...
THE CHILD...
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S YOURS!
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M SAYING...
A WOMAN LIKE THAT IS REALLY RECKLESS!
SHE'S DECEIVING YOU!

WHAAP
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!
MAKING AN UNFOUNDED ACCUSATION LIKE THAT...
THAT'S ENOUGH!

I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO DO THAT! NOT EVEN YOU!


TURN
KOUTAROU!
I'M HORRIBLE!
HORRIBLE!
SLAM

I'M SO HORRIBLE.
WANTING TO LIVE PROPERLY...
BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO.
I'D ALWAYS HATED MYSELF.

THE MORE I KEPT UP APPEARANCES, THE MORE I BECAME FILLED WITH DECEIT.
I WAS SO FILTHY IT WAS PAINFUL.
I WANTED TO BE A GOOD KID, BUT I WAS AFRAID OF BEING FOUND OUT.
I ONLY THINK OF CUNNING AND CLEVER METHODS OF DOING THINGS
I WANTED TO BE BORN A BEAUTIFUL PERSON...
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
I ADMIRED MY BROTHER.

I'LL NEVER REACH HIM.
EVEN IF I RAISE MY HANDS UP TO THE HEAVENS...
HE CAN'T EVEN FORGIVE ME ANY MORE!
I'M A SINNER.
KOUTAROU...
THE MORE THE YEARS PILED UP, THE FARTHER I FELL.
WHILE HE REACHED NEW HEIGHTS.

TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THE MARRIAGE...
WITHOUT TALKING TO YOU ABOUT IT.
I'M SORRY.
I WAS WRONG...
BUT, I...
WANTED TO GET MARRIED QUICKLY.
YOU KNOW HOW...
MOM LEFT WHILE YOU WERE LITTLE.
YOU'VE NEVER REALLY KNOWN A HOME WITH WOMEN IN IT.

I WANTED TO HURRY AND MAKE THAT KIND OF HOME...
FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE HIT YOU.

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HIT YOU, HUH?
PLIP
PLOP
PLOP
PLIP
SHIHO ...
IS A GOOD PERSON, AND SHE'S DEPENDABLE.
THANK YOU FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME.
BUT TRUST ME. IT WILL BE FINE.
BECAUSE I CHOSE HER...
GOOD NIGHT.

IF YOUR HEAD HURTS, MAKE SURE TO TAKE SOME MEDICINE BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP.
CLICK

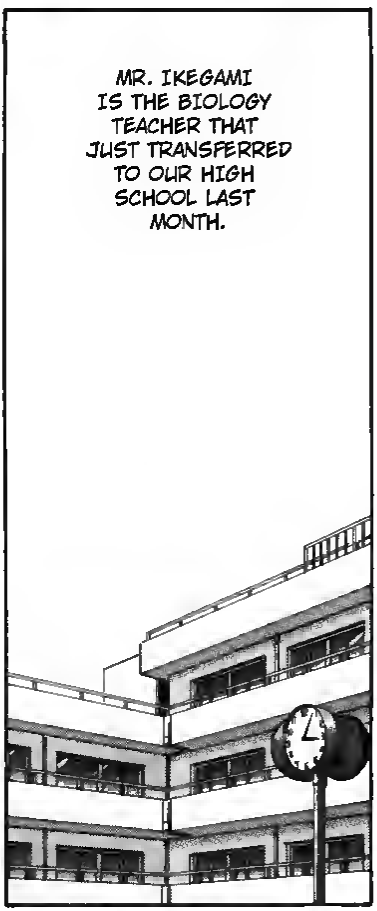
GOODBYE...

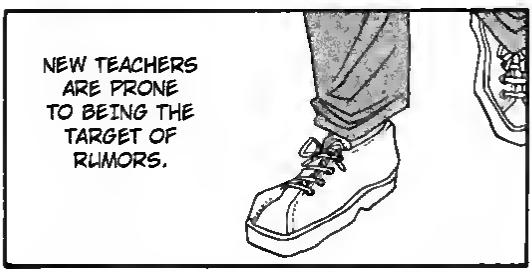
BROTHER.

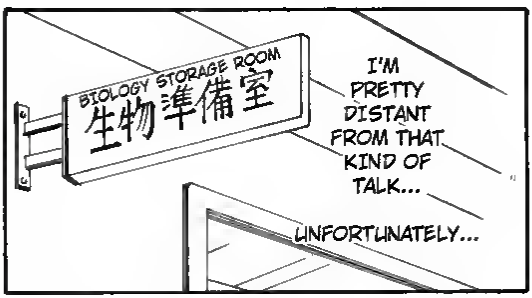
CHAPTER 4: TSUBAKI, PART 2

SUGIURA!
IKEGAMI IS CALLING FOR YOU.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TURNED IN YOUR NOTEBOOK, RIGHT?
OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
HE SAYS TO BRING IT TO THE BIOLOGY STORAGE ROOM.
THANKS.
I'LL BE BACK.
HEY, BETTER BE CAREFUL!

HUH?
THEY SAY IKEGAMI IS REAL TROUBLE.
DID YOU SEE THE STORAGE ROOM?
YEAH, I DID!
HE SEEMS REALLY WACKO.
HA HA HA
ぎゃはは
…?
SLIDE
ガラ


MR. IKEGAMI IS THE BIOLOGY TEACHER THAT JUST TRANSFERRED TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL LAST MONTH.


NEW TEACHERS ARE PRONE TO BEING THE TARGET OF RUMORS.


BIOLOGY STORAGE ROOM
生物準備室
I'M PRETTY DISTANT FROM THAT KIND OF TALK...
UNFORTUNATELY...

EXCUSE ME.
GATCHA
ガチャ

OKAY...
THAT SCARED ME...
.....
OH, SUGIURA?
IT'S OKAY, COME IN.
UM... I CAME TO TURN IN MY NOTEBOOK...
AH.
GOOD WORK.

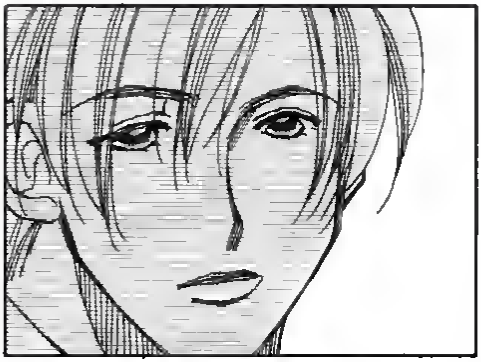
"TSUBAKI SUGIURA."
BIOLOGY
生物
TSUBAKI SUGIURA
WHAT A NICE NAME.
HUH?
OH, YOU THINK SO?
I NEVER REALLY...
WELL, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD NAME FOR A GIRL...

I FEEL LIKE IT'S PRETTY BECAUSE IT'S THE NAME OF A BOY LIKE YOU.
NOT AT ALL!
.....
UM, SO, I'LL BE GOING NOW...
OH...
'KAY.

"DID YOU SEE THE STORAGE ROOM?"
...
THIS WOULD START RUMORS.
DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN THAT?

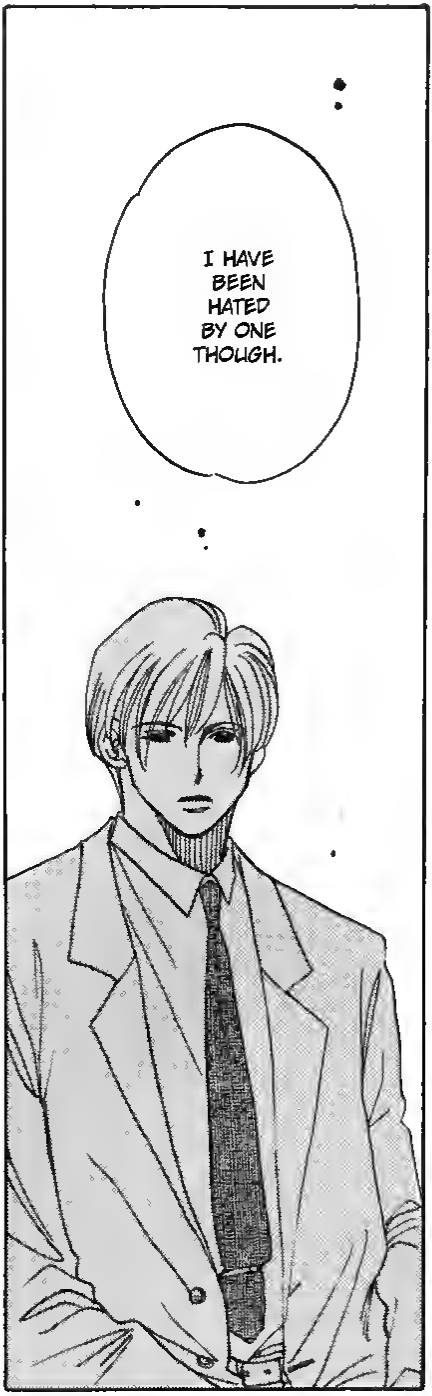
IT'S A PERSONAL HOBBY...
QUITE SIMPLY.
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS HERE...
NO... WELL...
YOU'RE SO ARTISTIC!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS STUFF...
TOUCH
HOBBY...
AH!
THE TYPE THAT GUYS LIKE, HUH?

HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN EXPERIENCE LIKE THAT?
OF COURSE.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?
I'VE NEVER BEEN LIKED BY A GUY...
I



HUH?
IT WAS DURING MY 3RD YEAR AT JUNIOR HIGH...
SO, MORE THAN A YEAR AGO NOW...

WHAT AM I SAYING?
I HAD A REALLY GOOD FRIEND,
THAT I REALLY LIKED, BUT...
WHEN I TOLD HIM I LIKED HIM, HE SAID, "I DON'T LIKE GUYS."


I HAVE BEEN HATED BY ONE THOUGH.

WHY AM I TALKING ABOUT THIS WITH THE FIRST PERSON I TALK TO TODAY?
SO, I SOMEHOW WONDERED WHETHER I'M REALLY SUCH A WORTHLESS PERSON...
BECAUSE I WAS BORN A GUY.
THIS KIND OF THING...
EXCUSE ME...
FOR BLURTING THAT OUT.
I DON'T REALLY...
TSUBAKI.

I LIKE YOU.
IF YOU WERE A GIRL, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED YOU, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU...
EVER SINCE OUR FIRST CLASS.

THE YOU THAT IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT...
A GUY.
I'M TELLING YOU I LIKE YOU AS YOU ARE, HERE AND NOW.
TREMBLE
YUI...

YOU SHOULD GO NOW.
IF YOU'RE WITH ME TOO LONG, WEIRD RUMORS MIGHT START SPREADING, RIGHT?
TURN 9.
TSUBAKI,
IF WHAT I SAID JUST NOW BOTHERS YOU, THEN FEEL FREE TO IGNORE IT...
BUT...

IF YOU EVER WANT TO BE COMFORTED...
COME BY ANYTIME.
ゼッ…
OPEN
1-C

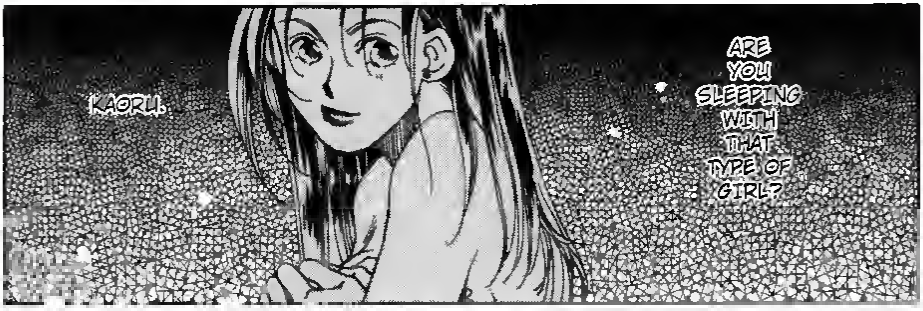
DID IT GO ALRIGHT? NO SEXUAL HARASSMENT?
HA HA HA
あはは
OH, YOU'RE BACK.
YOU TOOK YOUR TIME.
SORRY.
COME ON, LET'S GO.
UH, YEAH...
DON'T JOKE ABOUT THAT KIND OF STUFF. IT'S DISRESPECTFUL.
NO WAY THERE WOULD BE...

THUD
AH!
MAYBE.
WANNA GO GET SOME RAMEN?
STEP
AH, I'M STARVING.
GYM WAS SUCH A PAIN TODAY.
YEAH!
WHAT THE HELL? AT LEAST SAY SORRY, YA WEIRDO!
THAT HURT
STEP
WAIT UP!

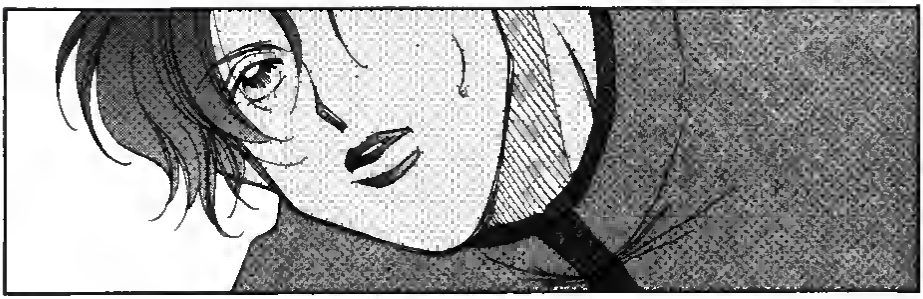
SUGIURA?
HEY, SUGIURA, LET'S GO!
YOU'RE LATE TODAY. DINNER'S ALMOST READY.
OH, TSUBAKI! YOU'RE HOME.
TURN
GATCHA

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
TSUBAKI?
SLAM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHO WAS THAT GIRL?

EVEN SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
ARE YOU FINE WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT, KAORU?
A GIRL WITHOUT A SHRED OF PURITY...
EVEN SOMEONE LIKE THAT...
IS BETTER THAN A GUY LIKE ME?



CAN SOMEONE LIKE THAT MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD?



IT MAKES ME SICK...
GRAB
WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH, BUT THAT GIRL IS.
I CAN'T ACCEPT IT, KAORU.
THAT I...

IF THAT GIRL IS GOOD ENOUGH TO SLEEP WITH...
KAORU...
THEN, I...!
HUFF
は?
WHAT IN THE WORLD...
AM I SAYING...

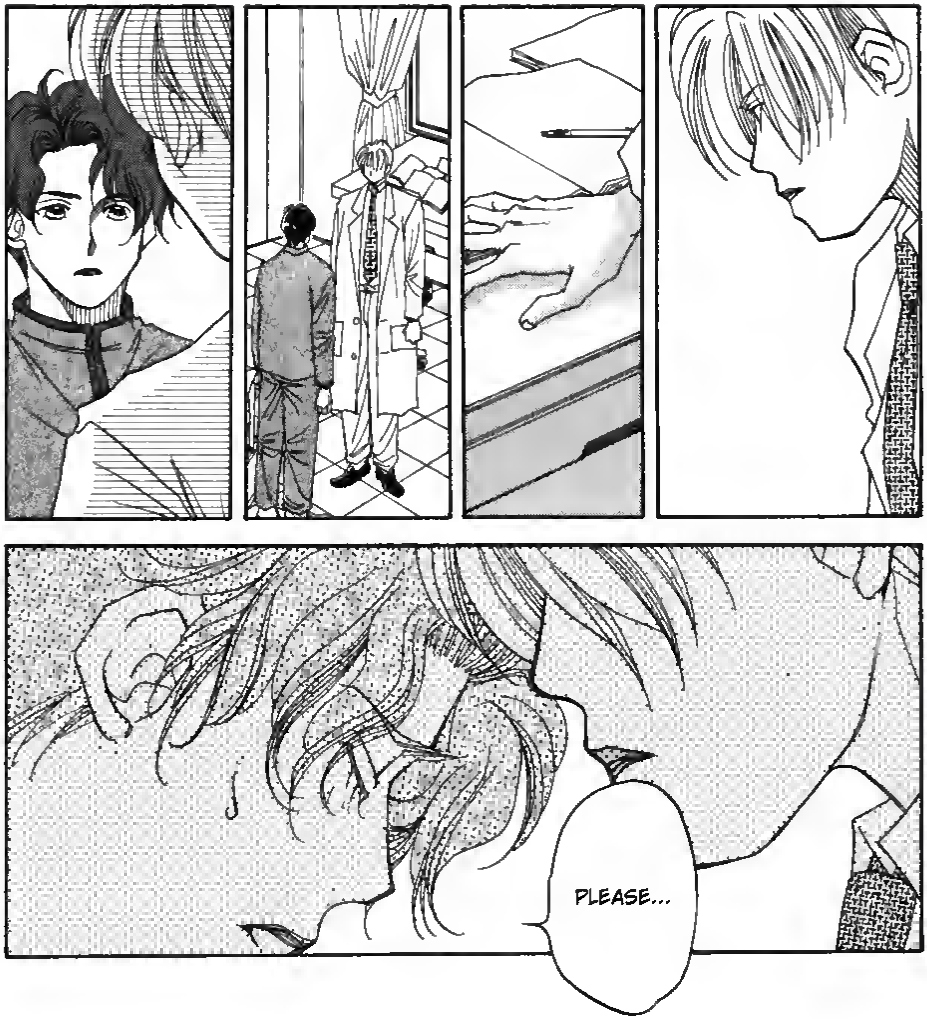
KAORU...
I LOVE YOU, KAORU.
IF YOU WOULD ONLY ASK, I WOULD SURELY DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
IF IT WAS FOR YOU...
I COULD DO IT SO MUCH BETTER THAN THAT GIRL...
WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I THINKING...
KAORU!
THIS...

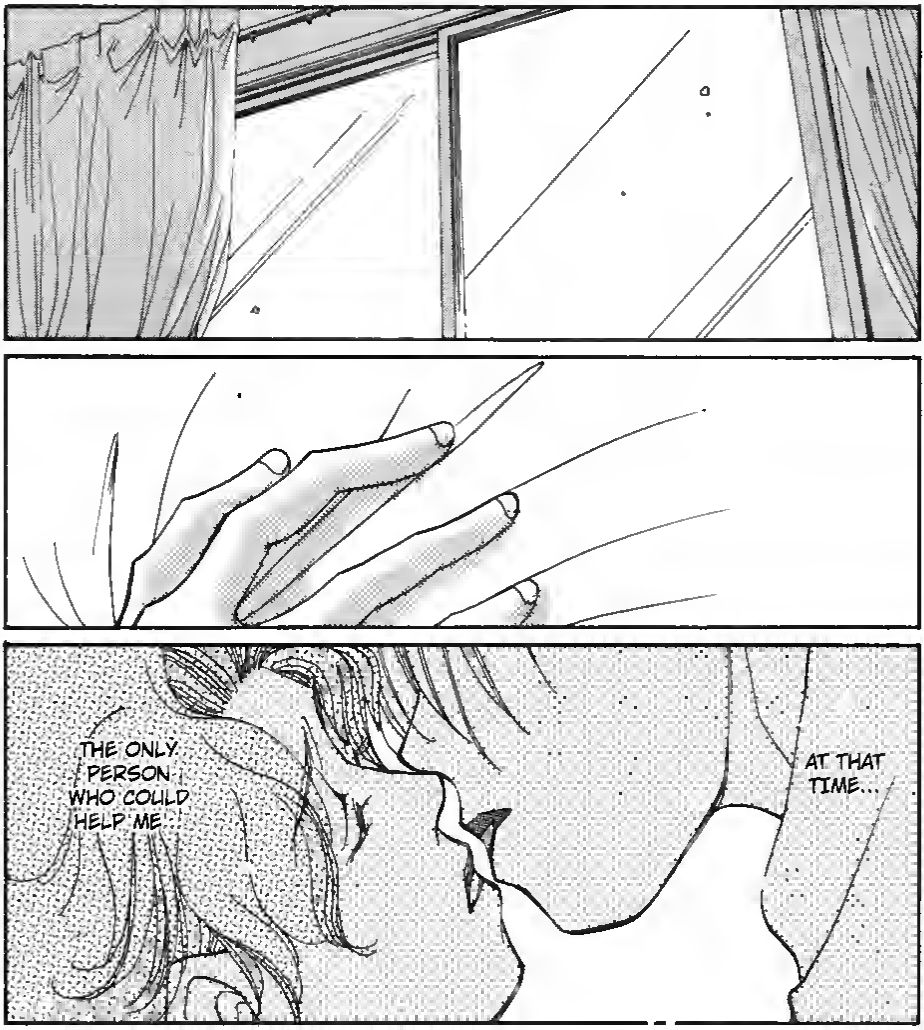
はあ.
HUFF
は..
HUFF
は.
HUFF

SHUT UP!
GO AWAY!
TSUBAKI!
KNOCK
KNOCK
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
HUFF
HUFF

BIOLOGY STORAGE
生物準備
GATCHA

SO EARLY IN THE MORNING? WHAT'S UP?
MR. IKEGAMI...
PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE TO ME.


PLEASE...
COMFORT ME...



...WAS HIM.

CHAPTER 5: ROLLING STONES

A MAN MADE LOVE TO ME ON THE LABORATORY TABLE.

CHATTER
CHATTER
I DIDN'T OBJECT.
NO MATTER WHAT FILTHY THINGS IKEGAMI'S FINGERS RAVAGED UPON MY BODY...
BY FAR, IT WAS SO MUCH BETTER THAN DOING IT MYSELF.

BEGAN TO ROLL DOWN A DIFFERENT PATH FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

IN THIS CLASSROOM, I ALONE...

FROM THE NORMAL WORLD.
I ALONE BEGAN TO BE PUSHED OUT...

ONLY ME...

..

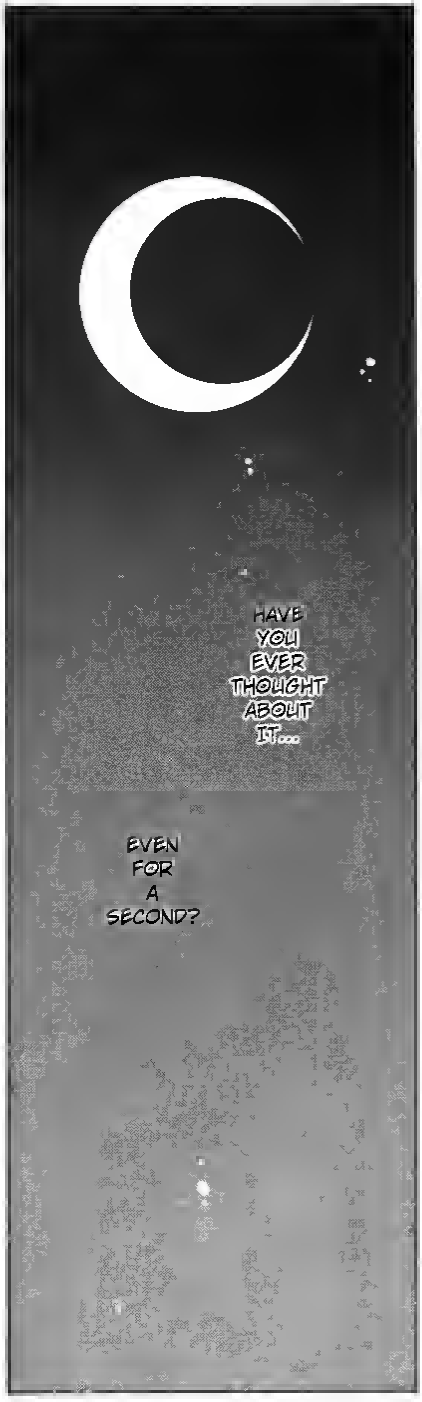
HUH?
OH, SHOOT, I'M ALL OUT...

WHAT?
WELL, WHATEVER. IT'S OKAY TO DO IT WITHOUT A CONDOM ONCE IN A WHILE.
AND TODAY'S A LOW-RISK DAY FOR ME.
WAIT A SECOND...
FORGET IT...
THANKS ANYWAY.
WHY NOT?
I SAID IT'S OKAY.
FORGET IT... I'M GOING HOME.
WAIT! WHAT'S WRONG?
GRAB
ALL OF A SUDDEN...

ばっ!
SHOVE
I SAID I DON'T WANT TO!
IT'S GROSS TO PUT IT IN WITHOUT ONE!
STOMP
はなたれ
STOMP
はなたれ?
?

SLAM!
SHOCK
WITHIN THE UNKNOWN AREAS OF YOU...
ARGH, I WANNA WASH MY HANDS...
I'VE GOTTA WASH THEM RIGHT AWAY...
STEP
STEP
WHAT HAD I BECOME?

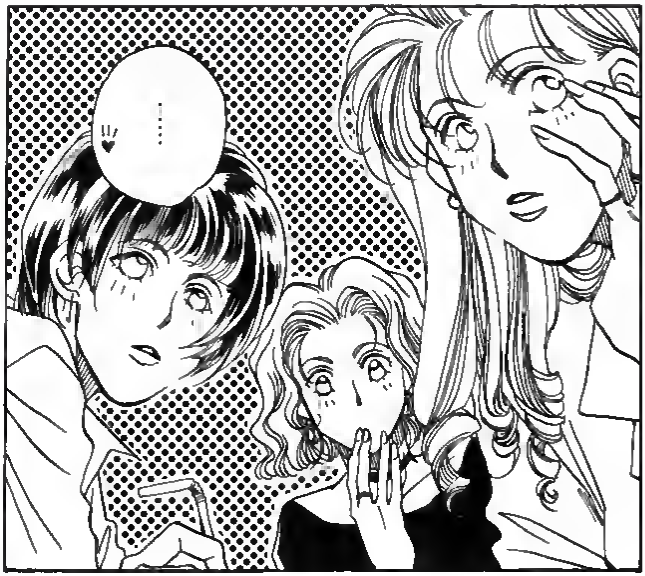
HEY, LOOK OVER THERE.
THAT BOY.

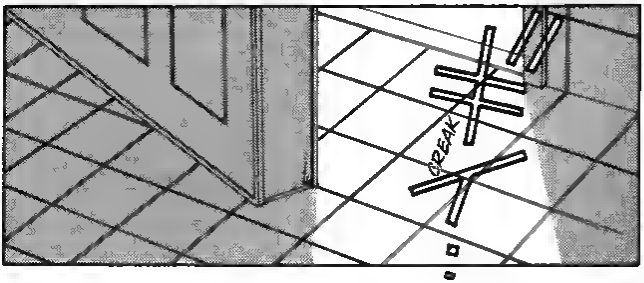

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
EVEN FOR A SECOND?

HE'S SOOOO CUTE!
STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, HUH?
BUT, HE'S SO TALL.
IS HE ALONE?
YOU SHOULD GO TALK TO HIM.
AH!
HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY...
SMILE

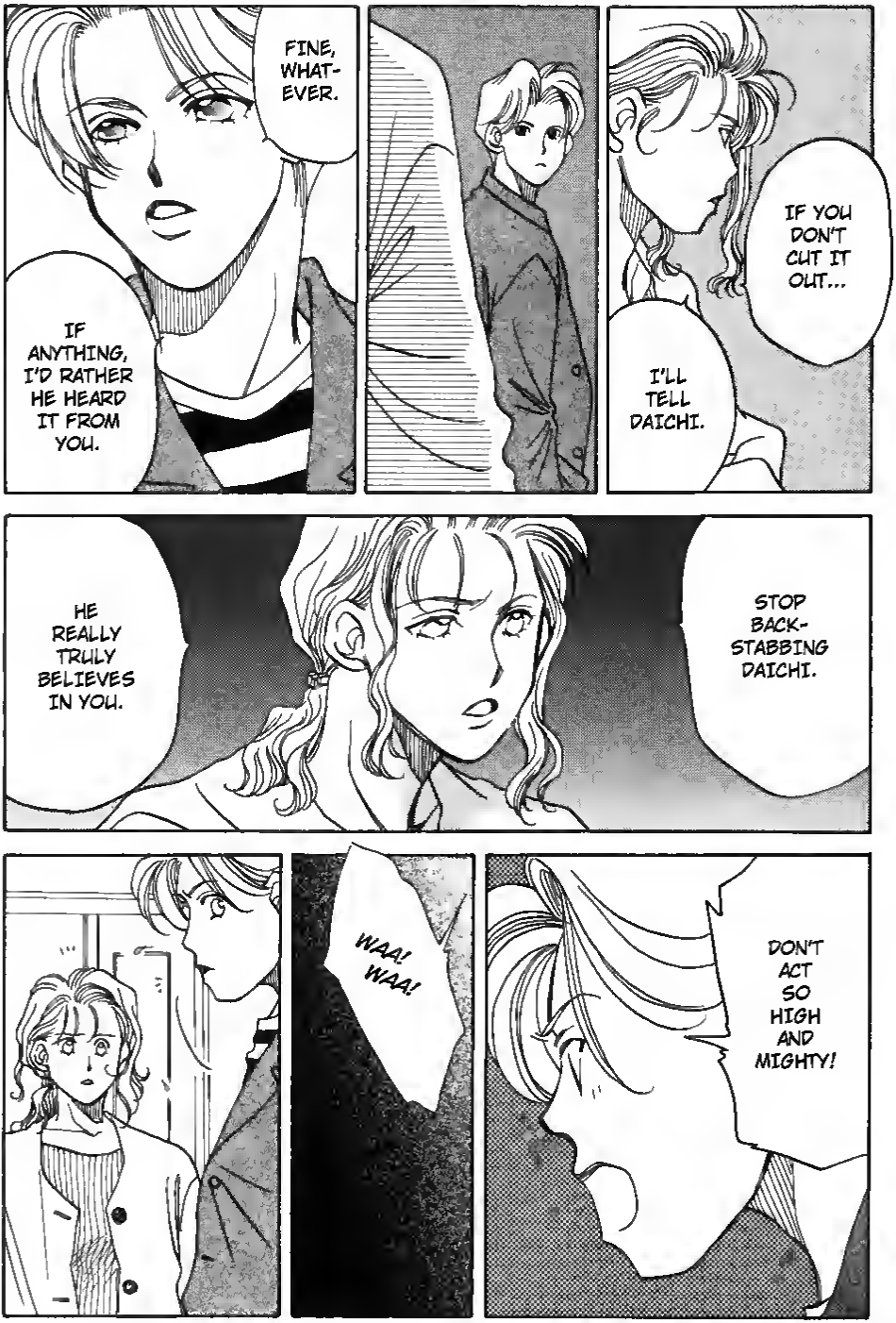
■ KAORU EBATA

A CHARACTER TO WHICH READERS REACTIONS ARE SPLIT BETWEEN "I LOVE HIM" AND "I FORGOT ABOUT HIM." EVEN I FORGET ABOUT HIM SOMETIMES. HE WON'T APPEAR FOR A WHILE, SO IT'S OKAY TO FORGET ABOUT HIM. (BUT THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.)





A FOURSOME WAS REALLY OVERDOING IT, HUH?
SIGH
THAT SUCKED OUT ALL MY ENERGY.
SO EXHAUSTED...
MAN, I'M SO TIRED.
I'M TOTALLY BEAT.
WERE YOU "STUDYING ON YOUR OWN AT CRAM SCHOOL"?
YOU'RE BACK, KOU.
.....
IF YOU KNOW, THEN DON'T ASK.
KOU...
YOU'RE LATE.


FINE, WHATEVER.
IF ANYTHING, I'D RATHER HE HEARD IT FROM YOU.
IF YOU DON'T CUT IT OUT...
I'LL TELL DAICHI.
HE REALLY TRULY BELIEVES IN YOU.
STOP BACK-STABBING DAICHI.
WAA! WAA!
DON'T ACT SO HIGH AND MIGHTY!

STEP
ぱた
WAA!
WAA!
WAA!
STEP
ぱた
STEP
ぱた…
MY STUPID BROTHER IS SATISFIED...
AS LONG AS I KEEP UP THE GOOD GRADES...
AND ACT LIKE I'M HAPPY WHEN I'M HERE.
I LOOK U-U-UP
WHEN I WA-A-ALK

LALALA LA LA LAAA
LAAA LALALA LA
SO THAT MY TEARS
WON'T FA-A-ALL
OH, RIGHT.
.....
SCRATCH SCRATCH
IT'S "REMEMBERING THOSE DAYS OF SPRING," RIGHT?
CHIRORIN

MY BODY WON'T MAKE VERY GOOD ART...
I'M ALL SCRAWNY.
IT WILL BE A RECORD OF...
OUR LOVE.
I LOVE YOU, TSUBAKI.
ARE GUYS...
BETTER THAN GIRLS?
WHY...

THE FACT THAT MEN ARE ATTRACTED TO WOMEN...
IS A MALE INSTINCT.
THINKING THAT YOU WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO A WOMAN IS BASED ON NOTHING MORE THAN REPRODUCTIVE INSTINCTS.
IT'S NOT LOVE.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE...
UNDER-STAND THAT, RIGHT?
ONLY CREATURES WHO HAVE HIGHER-LEVEL MINDS...
CAN TOUCH EACH OTHER'S GENUINE SOUL WITHOUT BEING DECEIVED BY ANIMALISTIC INSTINCTS.

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH.
NOT REALLY...

I LOOK UP WHEN I WALK
SO THAT MY TEARS WON'T FALL
REMEM-BERING THOSE DAYS OF SPRING
ON A NIGHT WHEN I'M ALL ALONE

ON A NIGHT WHEN I'M...

ALL ALONE...

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AROUND SO NERVOUSLY?
IT'S FULL OF GUYS...
WHAT THE...?
IS IT YOUR FIRST TIME?

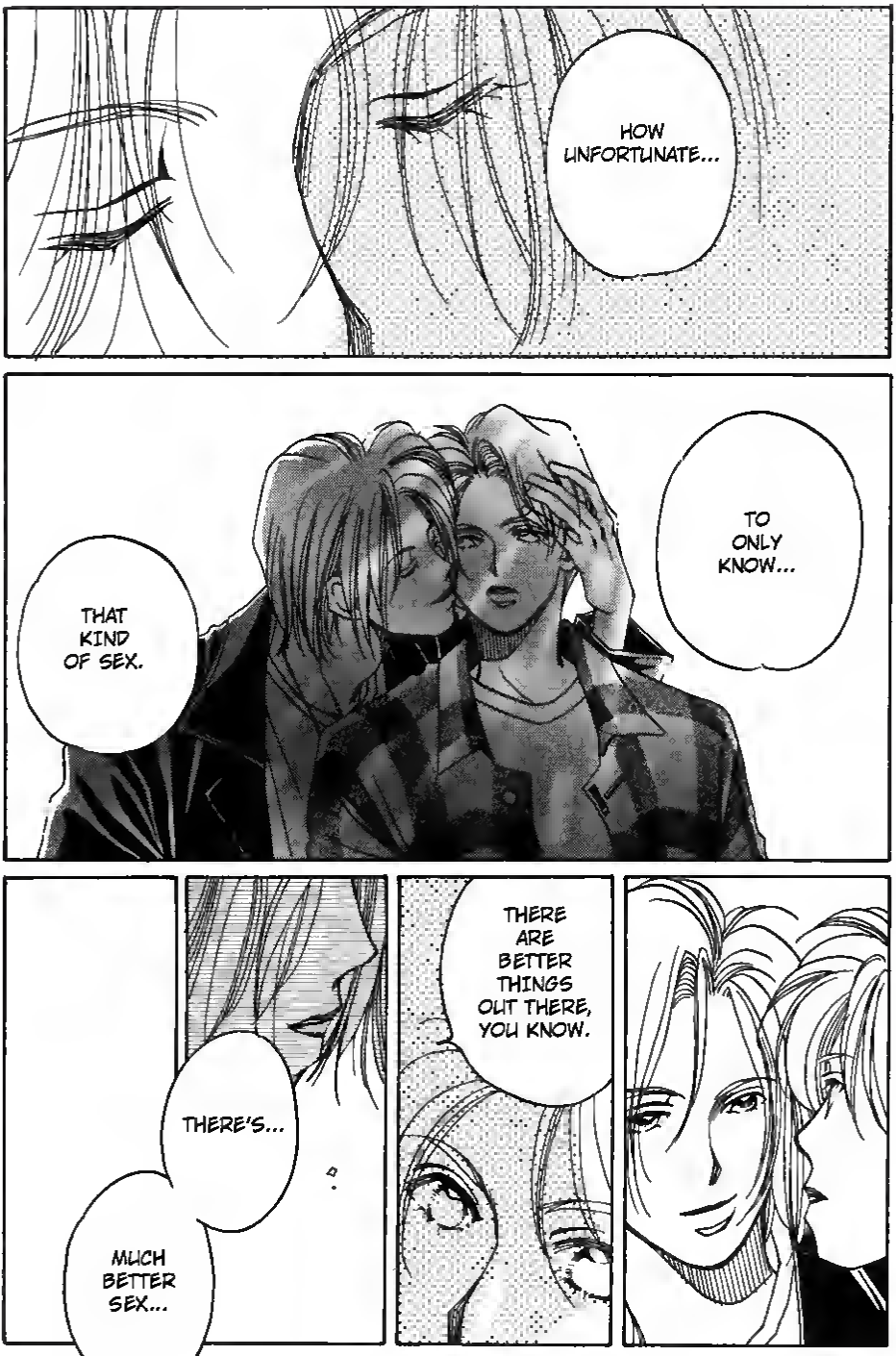
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
IT'S GAY NIGHT.
IS SOMETHING GOING ON TONIGHT?
IT'S ALL DUDES.
HUH?
NO...
BY THE WAY...
GAY NIGHT...
YUP.
THEY HAVE A GAY NIGHT HERE EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.
SO... EVERYONE HERE IS...
YUP.
WOW
EVEN ME.

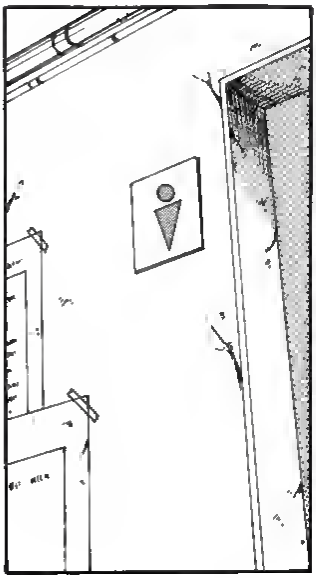
NO, I WON'T.
BUT I CERTAINLY WOULD IF IT WAS LESBIAN NIGHT.
NOT GOING TO RUN AWAY?
HM.
.....
.....
YEAH, BUT...
WON'T YOU BE BORED WITHOUT ANY WOMEN HERE?

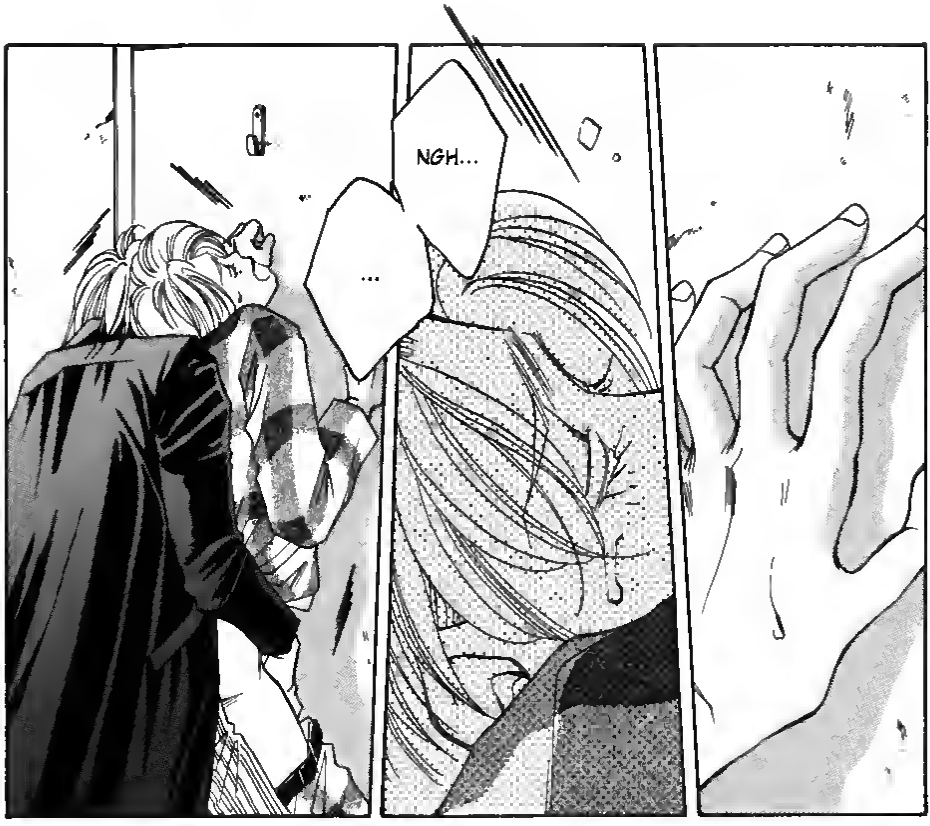
LIKE YOU CAN REALLY BREATHE EASY.
IT'S KINDA NICE... AND CAREFREE...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BUT...
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T HATE WOMEN?

MAYBE...
ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
DISGUSTED BECAUSE I'VE SLEPT WITH THEM...
WELL, I'M KINDA DISGUSTED...
AND THEN I SEE THEIR FACES WHEN THEY COME AND THINK OF HOW STUPID THEY ARE...
AND THEN I SEE IT ALL CLEARLY...
BY WOMEN.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
16...
1ST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
HOW MANY WOMEN HAVE YOU BEEN WITH?
LESS THAN 100... I GUESS...
ABOUT 90...


HOW UNFORTUNATE...
TO ONLY KNOW...
THAT KIND OF SEX.
THERE ARE BETTER THINGS OUT THERE, YOU KNOW.
THERE'S...
MUCH BETTER SEX...

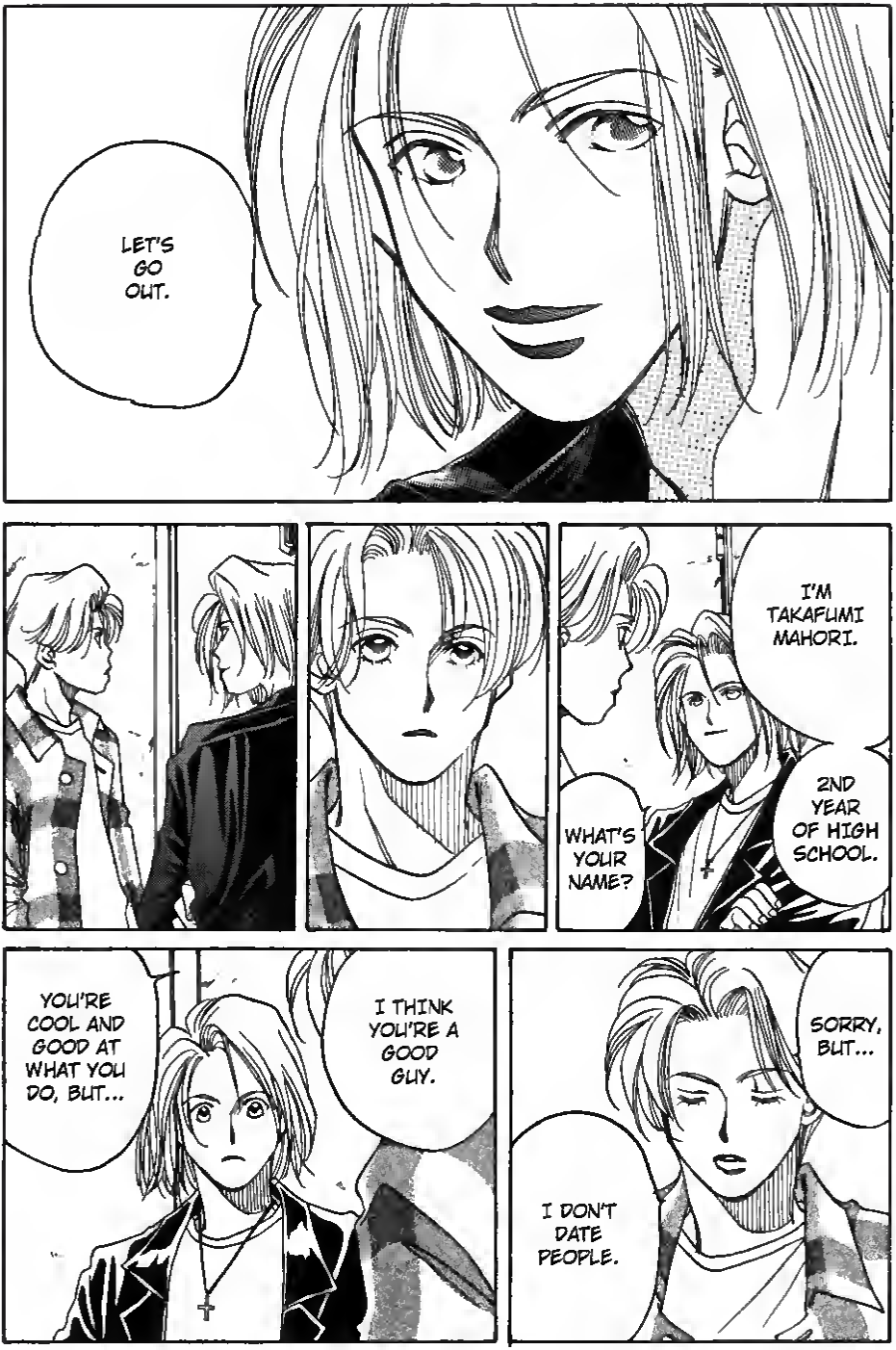


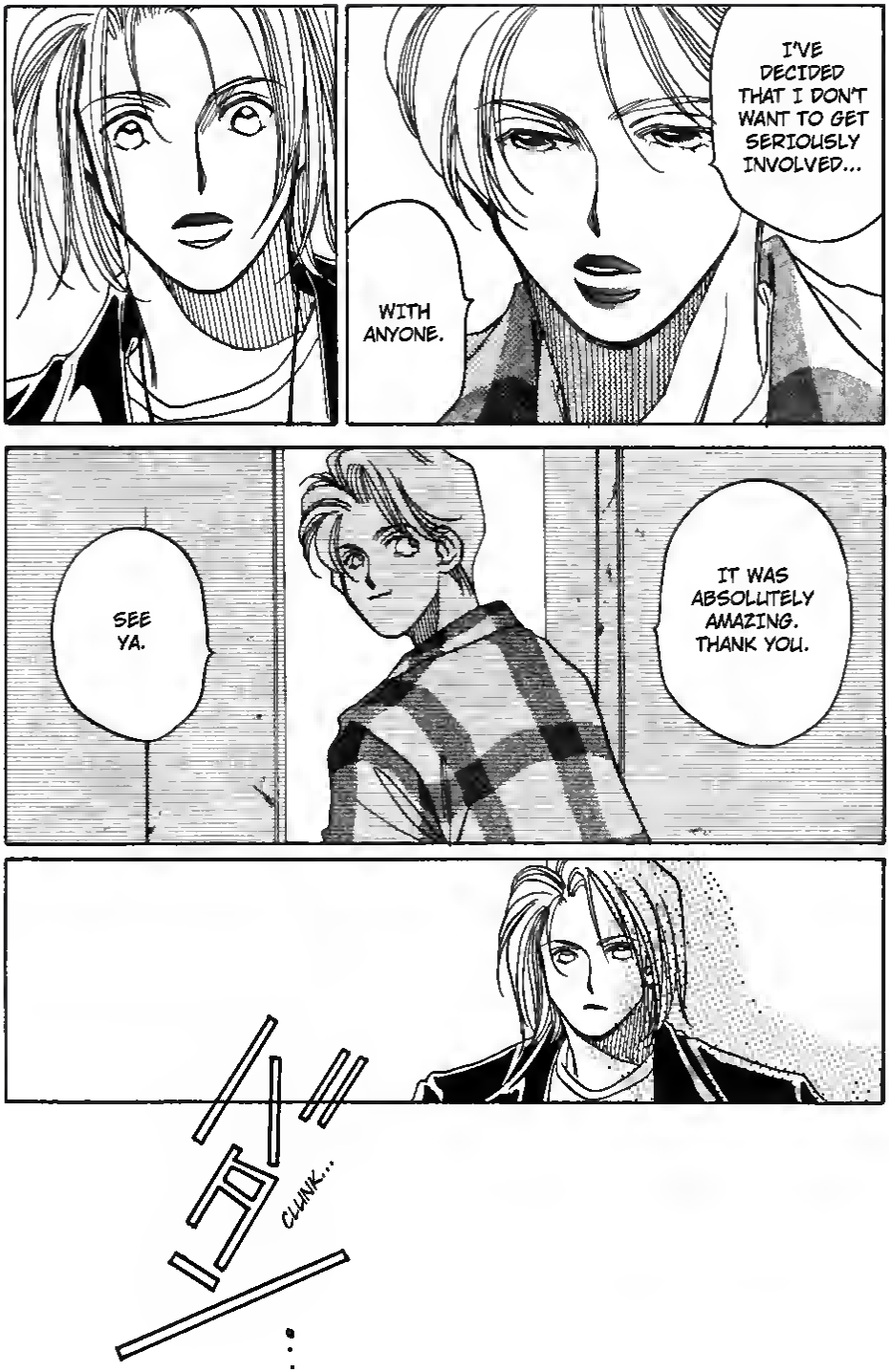

NGH...
...

AH
THUMP
THUMP

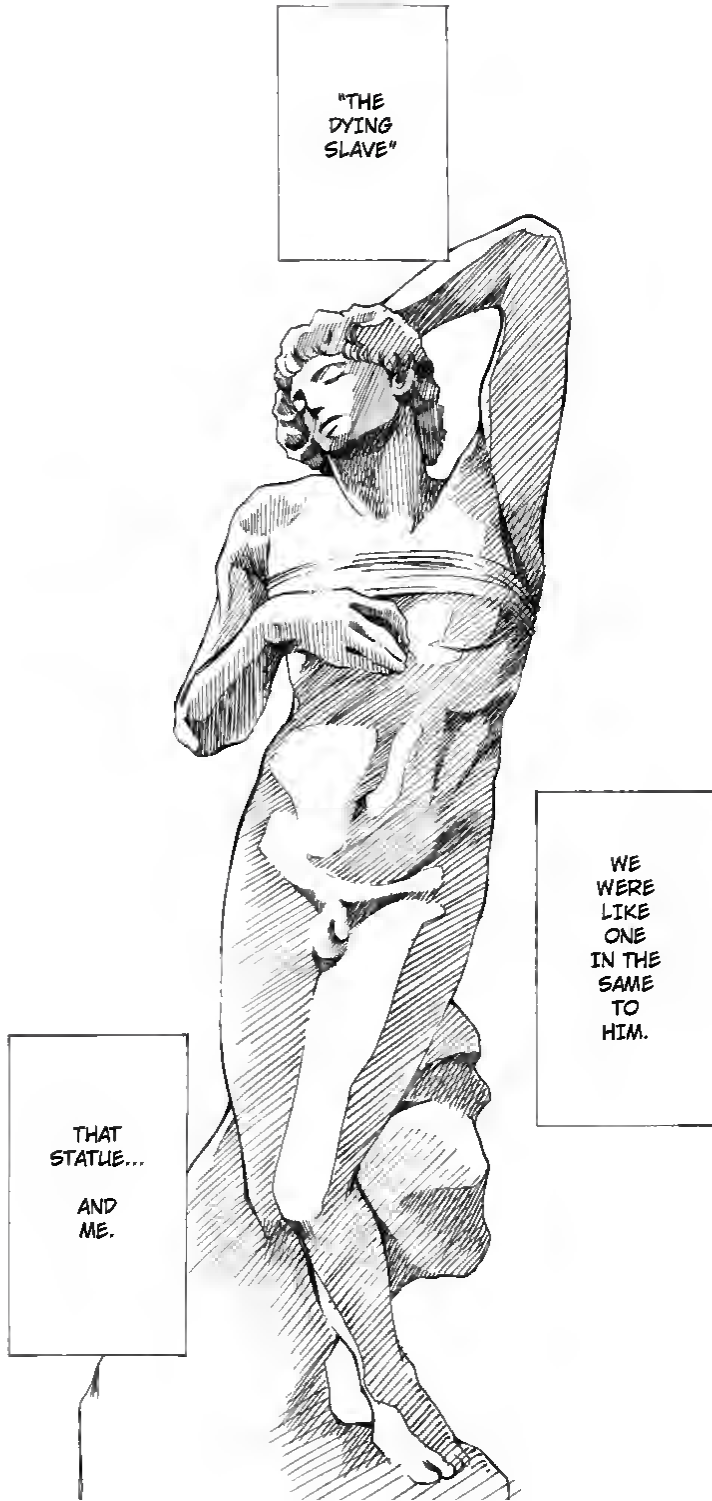
D.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...
I'VE COME DURING SEX.

BUT, THERE'S REALLY NOTHING BETTER THAN COMING YOURSELF...
ZZIP
I'M EXCLUSIVELY AN EXPERT AT MAKING OTHERS COME.
THAT A FACT?
YEAH.
YOU'VE GIVEN ME SOME GOOD EXPERIENCE.
WHAT A WASTE FOR US TO PART LIKE THIS.
GA-
THUNK

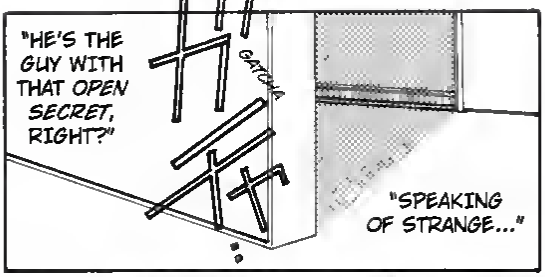

LET'S GO OUT.
I'M TAKAFUMI MAHORI.
2ND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I THINK YOU'RE A GOOD GUY.
YOU'RE COOL AND GOOD AT WHAT YOU DO, BUT...
SORRY, BUT...
I DON'T DATE PEOPLE.


I'VE DECIDED THAT I DON'T WANT TO GET SERIOUSLY INVOLVED...
WITH ANYONE.
IT WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. THANK YOU.
SEE YA.
CLUNK...

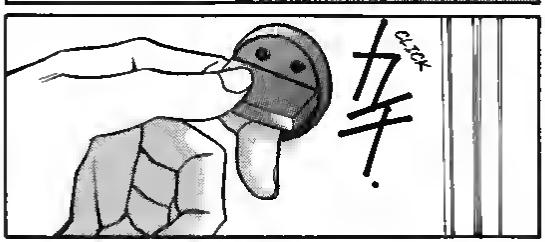
DOUSEI AI
LOVE UNDER ONE ROOF

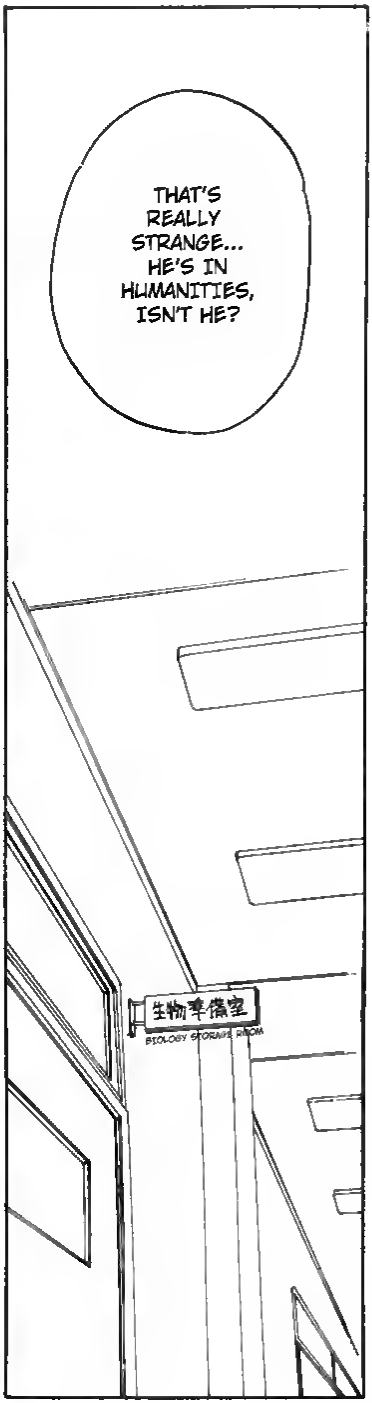

"THE DYING SLAVE"
WE WERE LIKE ONE IN THE SAME TO HIM.
THAT STATUE...
AND ME.

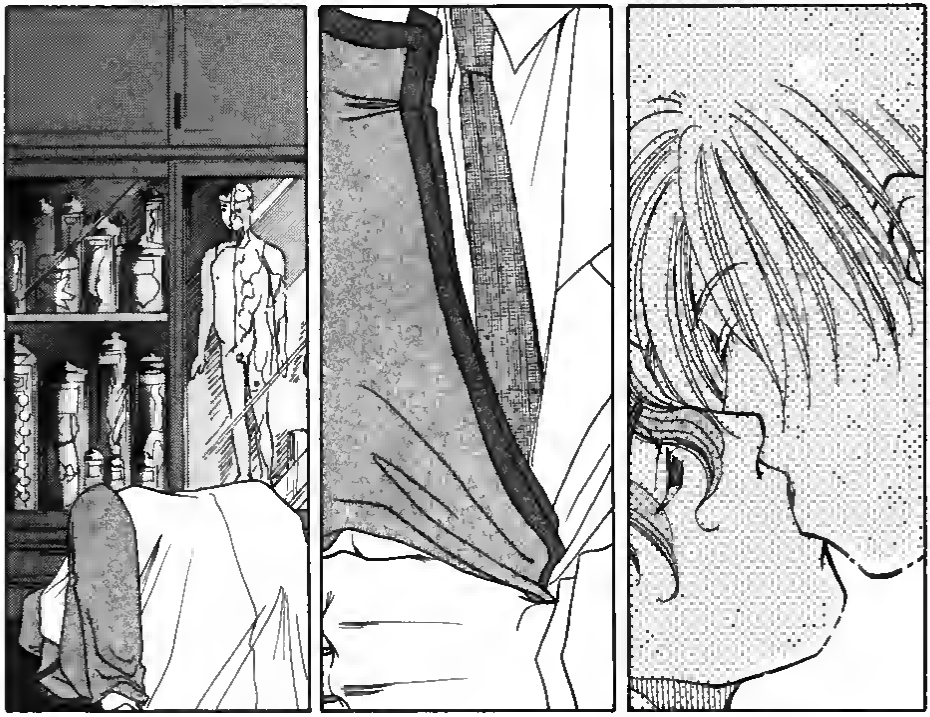
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
DING
DONG
CHATTER
CHATTER
I HAVE AN INTERVIEW TODAY.
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
OH-
SUGIURA'S GOING TO THE BIOLOGY STORAGE ROOM AGAIN?
.....
THAT'S RIGHT.
CLUNK
SHA-SHUNK


"HE'S THE GUY WITH THAT OPEN SECRET, RIGHT?"
GATCHA
"SPEAKING OF STRANGE..."

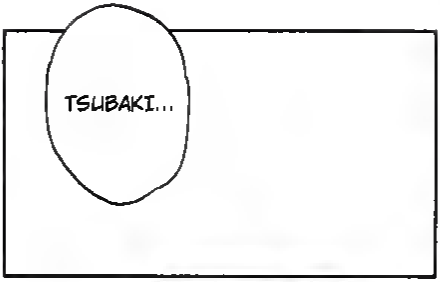
"HIS ATTITUDE HAS BEEN REALLY PECULIAR RECENTLY."

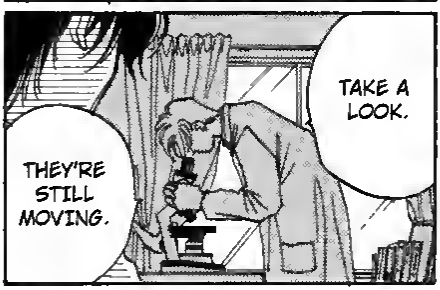

CLICK


THAT'S REALLY STRANGE... HE'S IN HUMANITIES, ISN'T HE?
生物準備室
BIOLOGY STORAGE ROOM

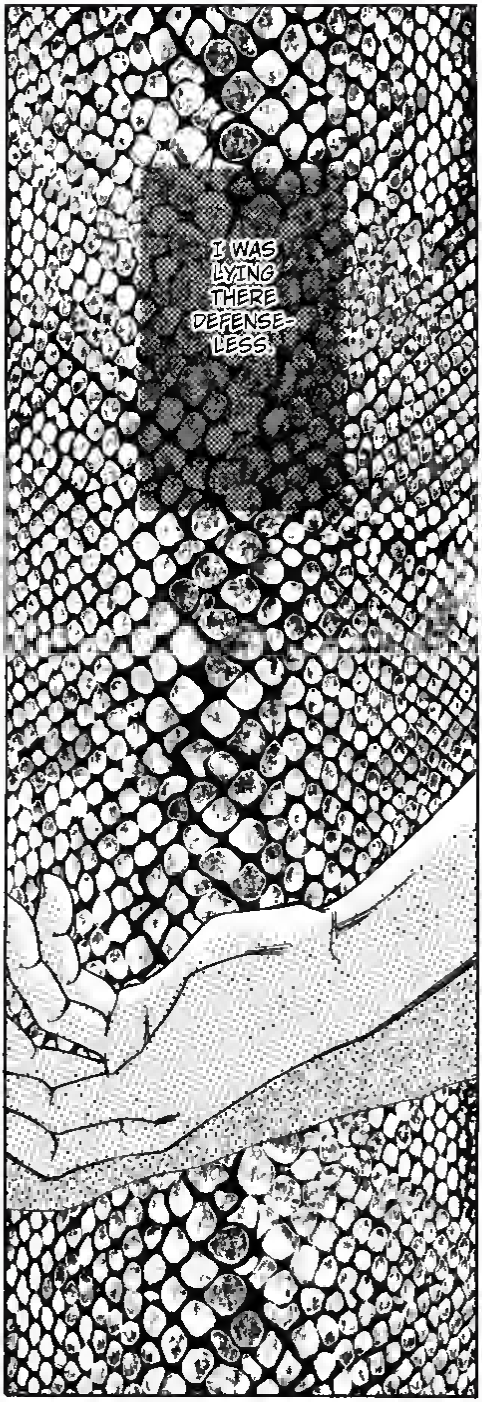


IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I STARTED MY RELATIONSHIP WITH IKEGAMI.
I JUST COULDN'T REFUSE HIM ANYTHING SINCE I WAS THE ONE WHO LEAPT INTO THAT ROOM.
I SUR-REND-ERED MYSELF TO HIM LIKE A MERE DOLL
BETWEEN DEPRESSING MEMORIES OF BEING REJECTED BY MY STRAIGHT CLASSMATE...
AND THE SEX-WORLD OF A PERVERTED TEACHER...

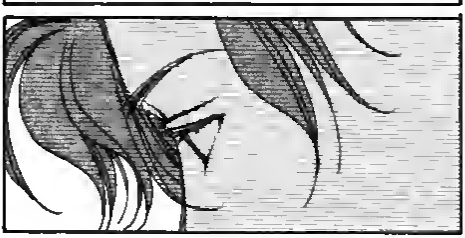

TSUBAKI...


TAKE A LOOK.
THEY'RE STILL MOVING.

THEY'RE YOURS.


I WAS LYING THERE DEFENSE-LESS.

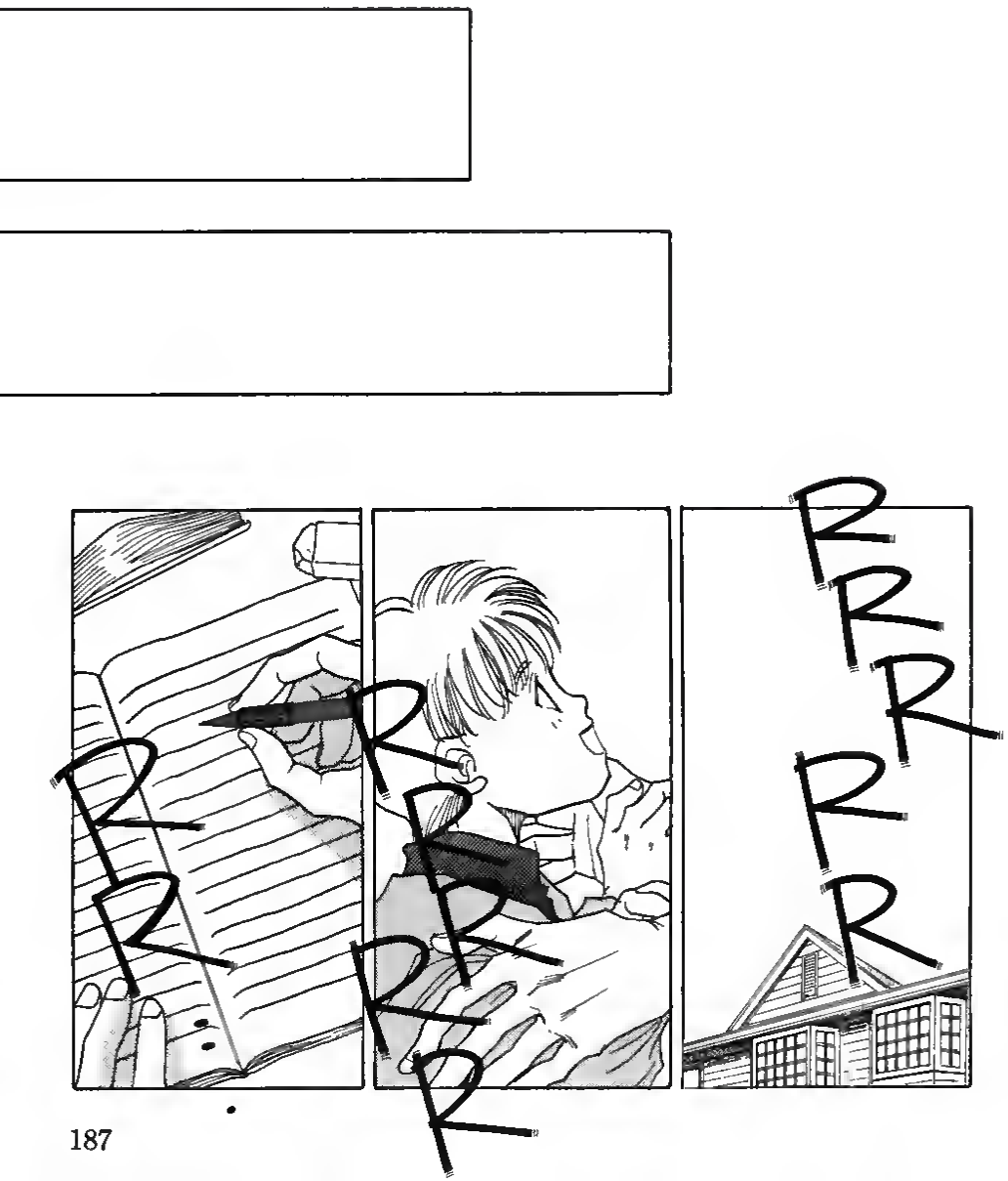
THREE MORE MONTHS.



IF I CAN STAY WHERE I AM FOR THREE MONTHS, I'LL GRADUATE.

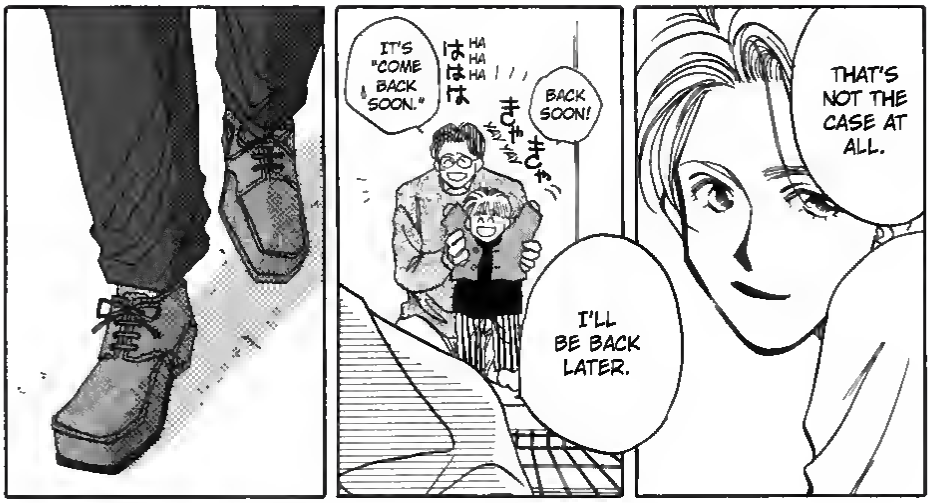
I WILL BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
HOW'S YOUR STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS GOING?
ARE YOU MAKING PROGRESS?
AH, YES...
KIND OF...
GOOD.

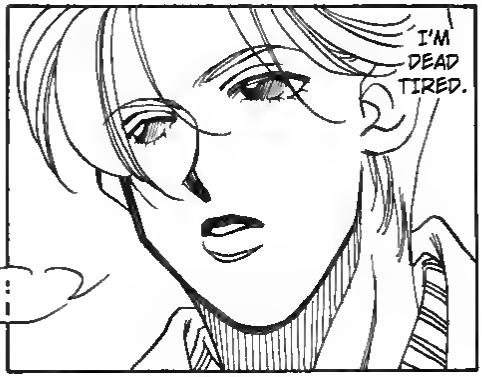
MY DAYS OF CURSING IT ALL IN MY HEART...
WILL SOON END.

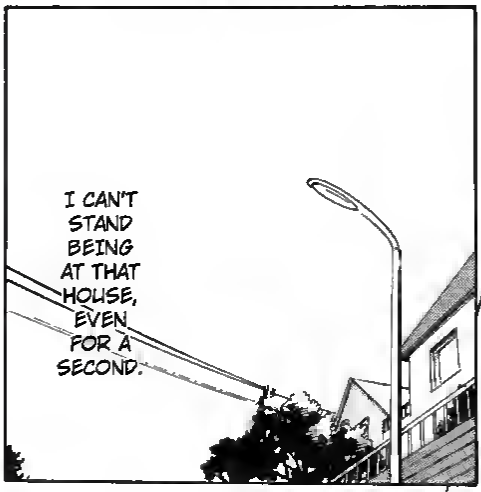

RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR

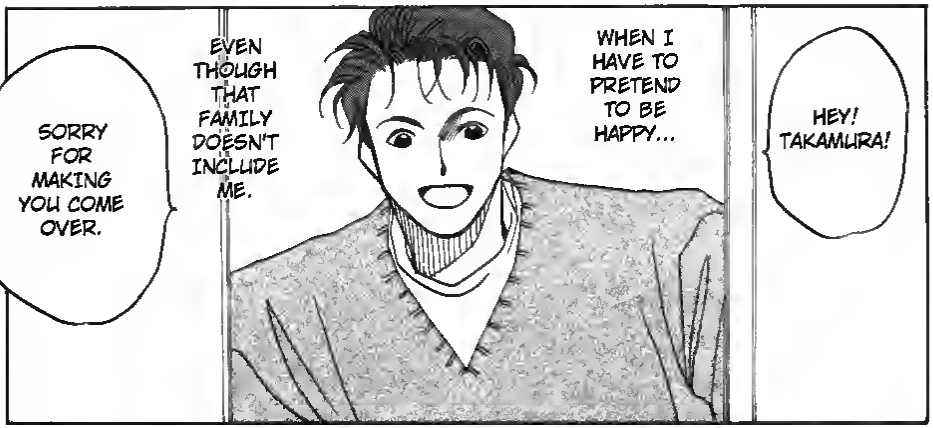
IT'S SOMEONE NAMED KIKUCHI.
OKAY
BEEP
KOU! PHONE CALL!
HA HA HA
KOU!
PHONE CALL!
HELLO? KIKU?
IT'S ME.
YEAH... THAT'S FINE.
WANT SOME SNACKS?
YEAH!
YEAH...
YEAH, I BROUGHT IT HOME.
HUH? MY WORLD HISTORY NOTEBOOK?

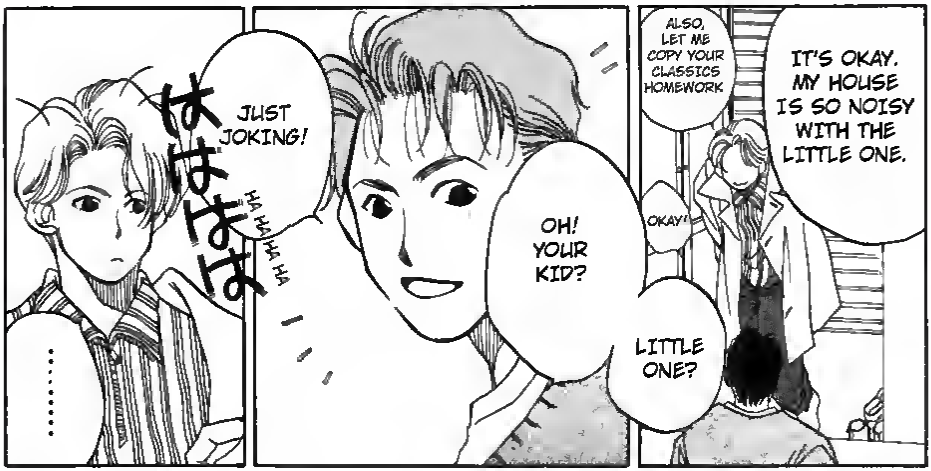
HUH? KOUTAROU...
YOU'RE GOING OUT?
BUT IT'S SO COLD
YEAH, TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THESE DAYS...
YOU NEVER BRING FRIENDS OVER HERE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DISTURBING US.

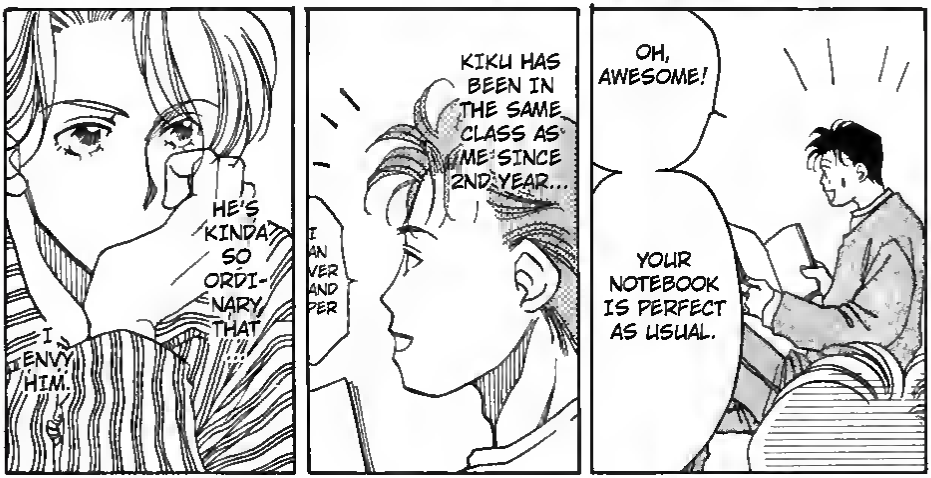

IT'S "COME BACK SOON."
はは
HA HA HA!!!
BACK SOON!
まぁ
まぁ
I'LL BE BACK LATER.
THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL.


I'M DEAD TIRED.


I CAN'T STAND BEING AT THAT HOUSE, EVEN FOR A SECOND.


HEY! TAKAMURA!
WHEN I HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE HAPPY...
EVEN THOUGH THAT FAMILY DOESN'T INCLUDE ME.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME OVER.


IT'S OKAY. MY HOUSE IS SO NOISY WITH THE LITTLE ONE.
ALSO, LET ME COPY YOUR CLASSICS HOMEWORK
OKAY!
LITTLE ONE?
OH! YOUR KID?
HA HA HA HA
JUST JOKING!
ははは
.....

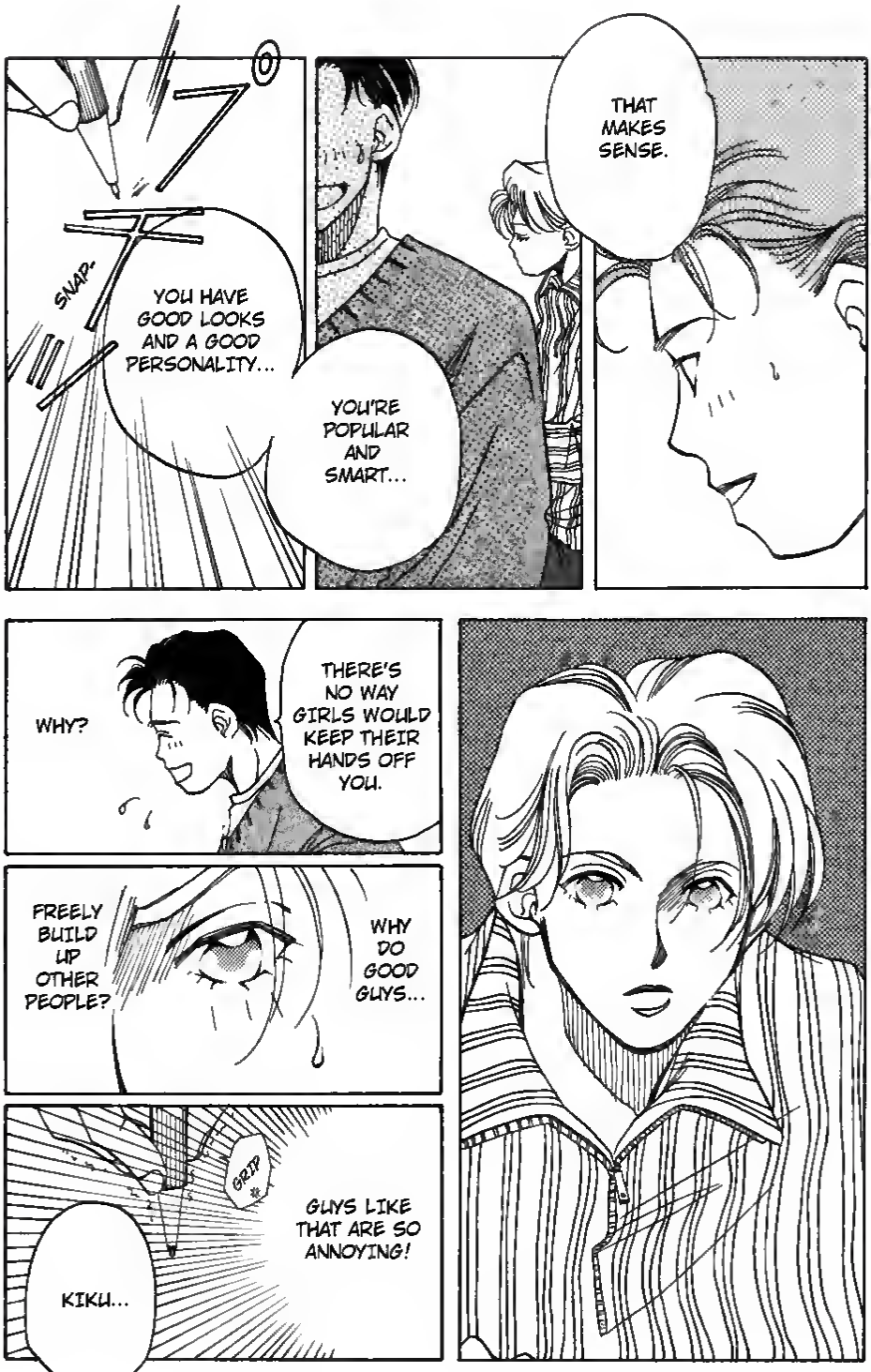

OH, AWESOME!
YOUR NOTEBOOK IS PERFECT AS USUAL.
KIKU HAS BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS AS ME SINCE 2ND YEAR...
HE'S KINDA SO ORDI-NARY, THAT I ENVY HIM.

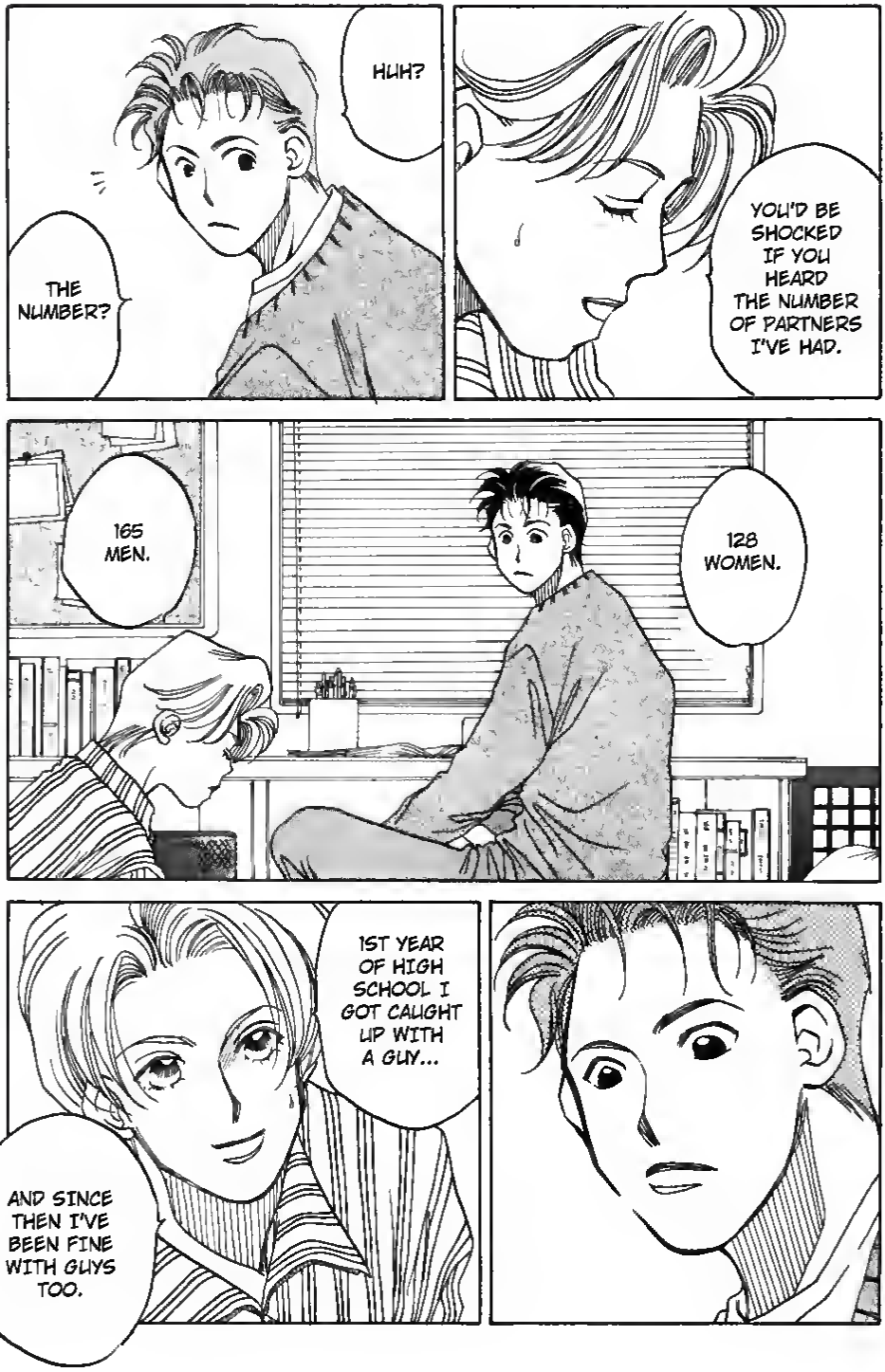
THE OTHER DAY I HAPPENED TO HEAR SAWAI AND THE OTHERS TALKING...
YEAH?
YEAH.
.....
HE'S A GOOD GUY.
UH...
HEY, UM...
THEY SAID SHIBAURA OR SOMEONE SAW YOU PICKING UP A BUNCH OF WOMEN...
AT SOME NIGHTCLUB
YEAH...
WELL...
HUH?
WHAT?

NO WAY, RIGHT? HE MUST HAVE BEEN SEEING THINGS.
YOU'RE NOT THAT TYPE OF GUY...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
.....

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. NO WAY...
I WAS NEVER THE ONE WHO STARTED TALKING TO THEM...
THAT ENTIRE TIME, THE WOMEN WERE THE ONES DOING THE PICKING UP NOT ME...
AH, KIKU, YOU LEFT OUT SOME-THING HERE.
.....

WELL, THEN...
.....
LIH, YEAH. THANKS.
CAN I WRITE IT IN FOR YOU?
A VIRGIN...
ANYMORE?
SO, YOU'RE NOT REALLY...
.....
THAT SO?
FLUSH
HE THINKS HE'S HEARD SOMETHING EMBARRASSING.
YEAH.


SNAP.
YOU HAVE GOOD LOOKS AND A GOOD PERSONALITY...
YOU'RE POPULAR AND SMART...
THAT MAKES SENSE.
WHY?
THERE'S NO WAY GIRLS WOULD KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF YOU.
FREELY BUILD UP OTHER PEOPLE?
WHY DO GOOD GUYS...
GRIP
KIKU...
GUYS LIKE THAT ARE SO ANNOYING!


HUH?
THE NUMBER?
YOU'D BE SHOCKED IF YOU HEARD THE NUMBER OF PARTNERS I'VE HAD.
165 MEN.
128 WOMEN.
1ST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL I GOT CAUGHT UP WITH A GUY...
AND SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN FINE WITH GUYS TOO.

THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY I AM.
MAN OR WOMAN...
I'LL DO IT WITH ANYONE.
...
—

THAT MAKES SENSE...
GUYS ARE MORE LAID-BACK AND EASIER TO UNDERSTAND, I GUESS.
THERE'VE BEEN MORE GUYS, HUH?
EVEN THOUGH SHE'D SMILE WHEN I TREATED HER TO MEALS...
IF I ASKED HER TO GO TO A HOTEL, SHE'D GET ALL COLD AND SAY THINGS LIKE, "SO, *THAT*'S WHAT YOU'RE REALLY AFTER."
I HAD A GIRLFRIEND ONCE, BUT...
I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HER.

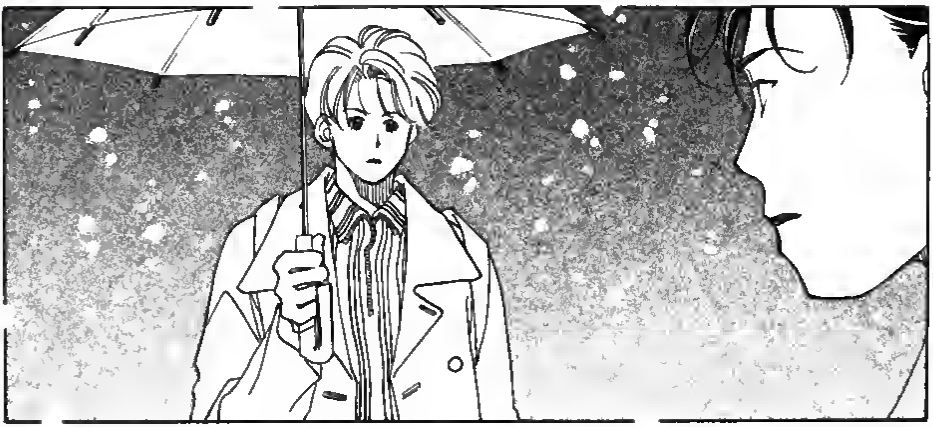
HA HA!
HOW ARE APPETITE AND SEX DRIVE SO DIFFERENT?
WHY'S IT HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT?
LIKE I WAS BEING RUDE
IN FRONT OF SOMEONE LIKE HIM.
WELL, THEN...
I HAVE NO CHANCE...
I GUESS IT'S USELESS.

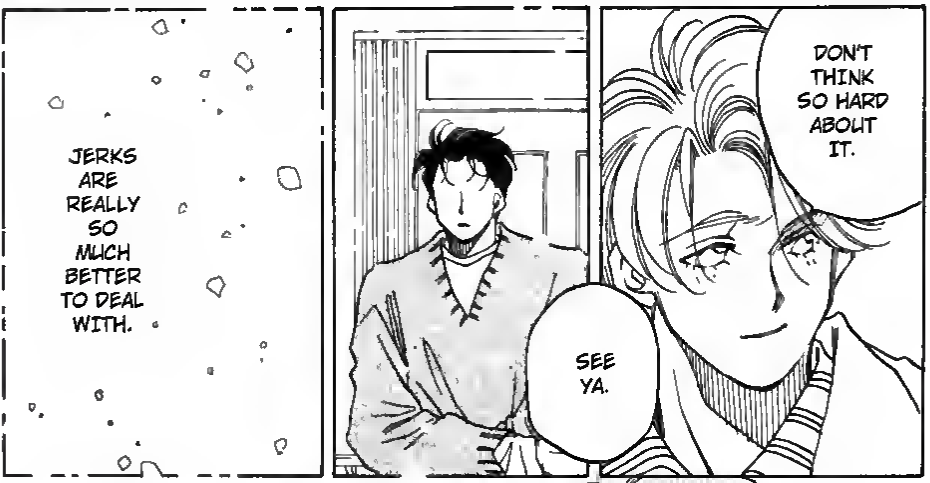
SHALL I DO IT FOR YOU?
WITH MY MOUTH...
I'M GOOD, YOU KNOW.

IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN HUH?
TAKE THE UMBRELLA.
OKAY. THANKS.

SEE YA.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
THANKS FOR THE HELP TODAY...
WITH THIS AND THAT...
TAKA-MURA.
YOU SAID "I'LL DO IT WITH ANYONE," BUT...
THAT'S NOT REALLY TRUE, IS IT?

YOU'LL DO IT FOR ANYONE, RIGHT?
YOU'RE A KIND PERSON.
.....
OR MAYBE JUST LONELY?




JERKS ARE REALLY SO MUCH BETTER TO DEAL WITH.
SEE YA.
DON'T THINK SO HARD ABOUT IT.

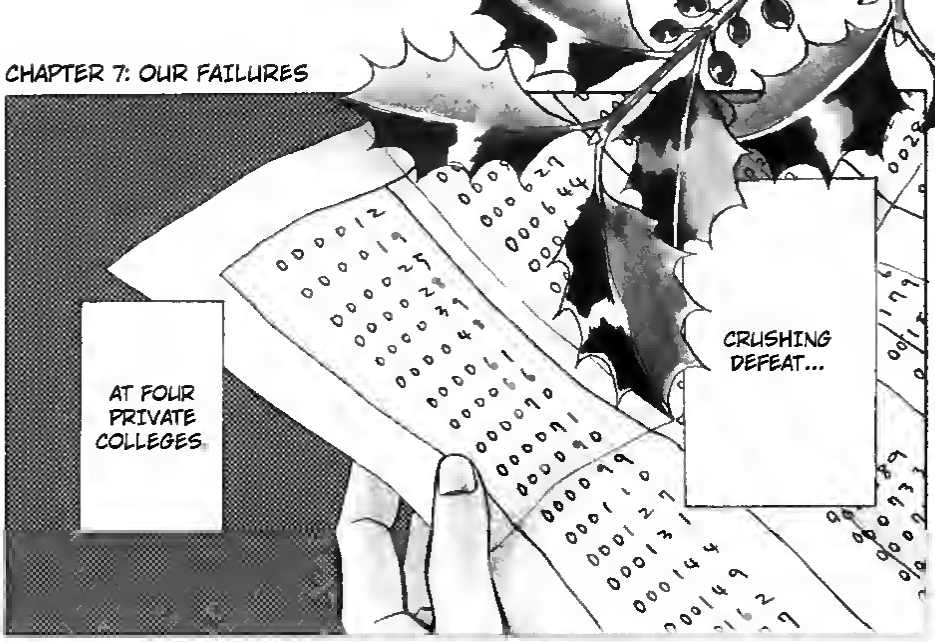
I START TO FEEL LIKE I CAN'T STAY THERE A MINUTE LONGER.

NICE GUYS...
MAKE PROBLEMS.

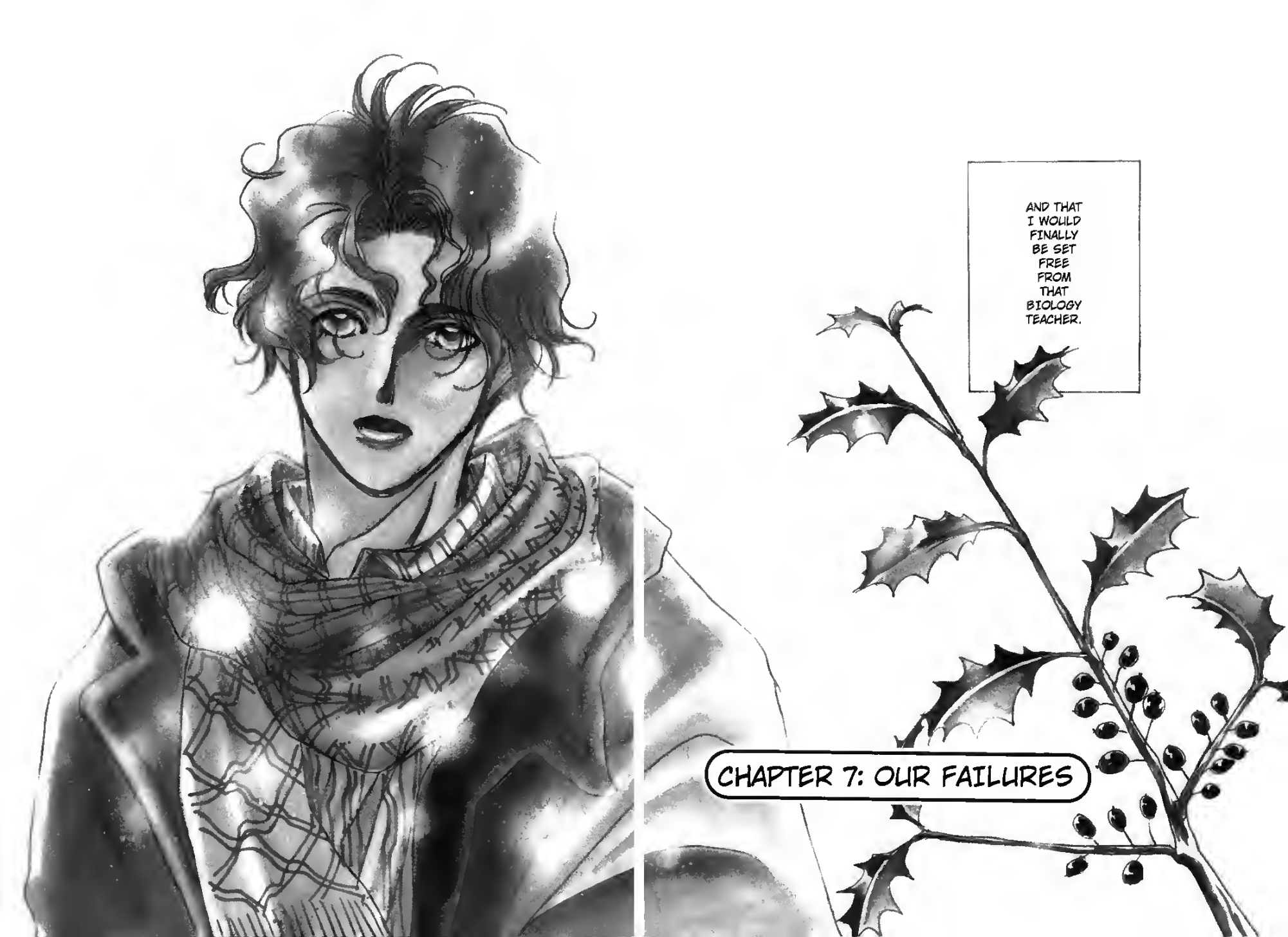
"LONELY," HUH?
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING YOU COULD SAY ABOUT ANYONE?

EVEN SO, WILL THE DAY EVER COME...
THE DAY WHEN I CAN LET SOMEONE SEE MY TEARS...
WHEN I CAN OPEN MY HEART LIKE THAT TO SOMEONE?

ZIP



I DIDN'T REALLY CARE. I'D NEVER REALLY BEEN SERIOUS ABOUT THE ENTRANCE EXAMS. MORE THAN THAT...


AND THAT I WOULD FINALLY BE SET FREE FROM THAT BIOLOGY TEACHER.
CHAPTER 7: OUR FAILURES

WELL, TAKING ONE OR TWO YEARS OFF IS PRETTY NORMAL NOW...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
IT'S A SHAME...
MR. IKEGAMI.
I CAN LOOK OVER THE SCIENCE SECTIONS, BUT...

PLEASE END THIS TODAY.

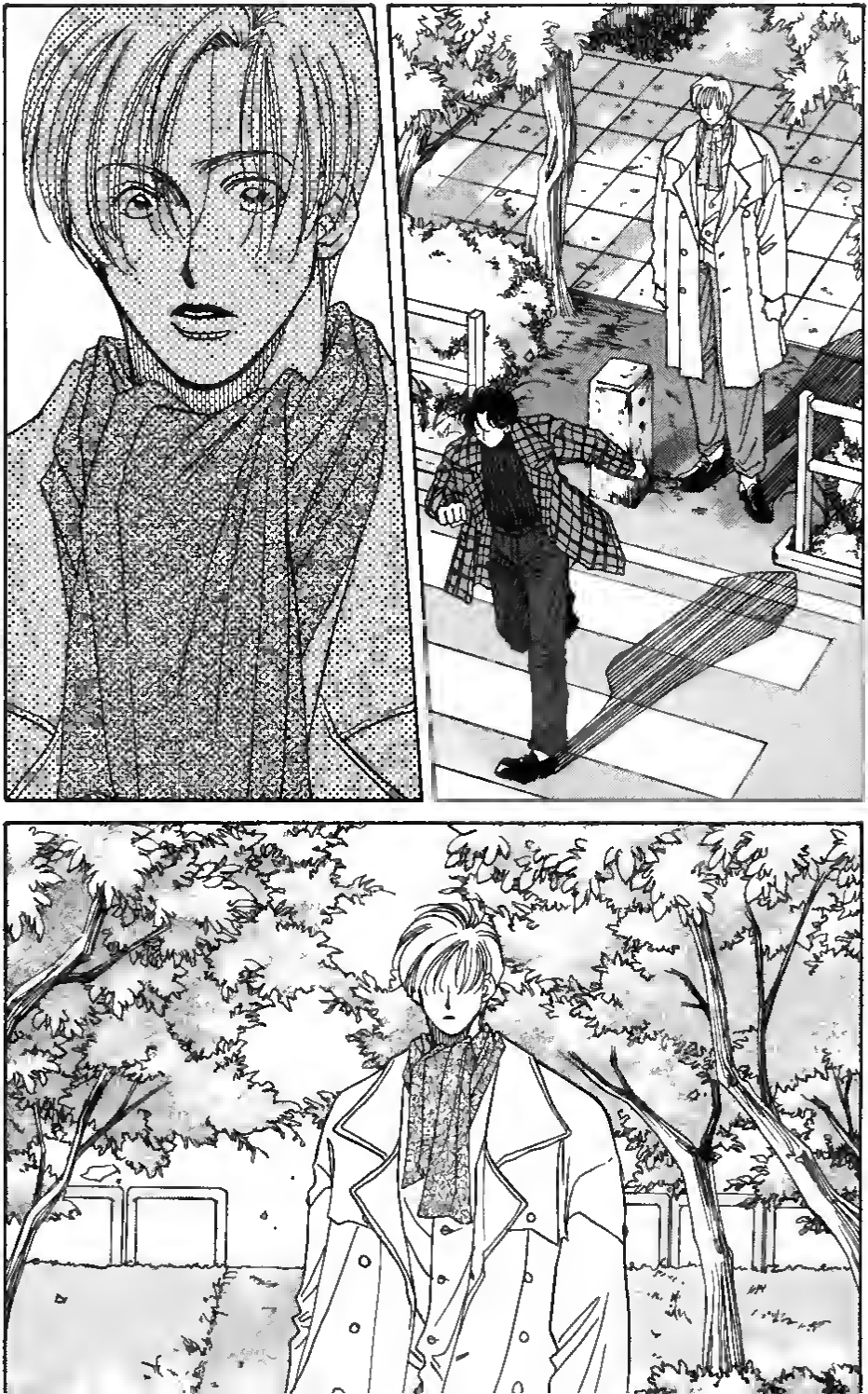
LET'S NOT SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE.
IF I... INTERFERED WITH YOUR STUDIES...
I APOLOGIZE.
BUT...
THAT'S NOT IT.
SNAP

...SO, I THINK WE SHOULD...
BUT... IT'S ALREADY GRADUATION.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH COLLEGE.
WE CAN MEET WHENEVER WE WANT NOW, RIGHT?
SINCE YOU'RE GRADUATING,
ANY-MORE.
THERE'S NO REASON...
OR NEED FOR ME TO MEET WITH YOU...
——.....

MY HEART IS ON EDGE.
.....!
I TRULY LOVE YOU...
IT HURTS.
TSUBAKI ...
WHERE DID IT BEGIN?
THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING...
IF MY FEELINGS WEREN'T ENOUGH, I CAN GIVE YOU MORE FROM NOW ON...

EVERY...
I DON'T WANT TO BE HATED... OR LOVED...
JUST BECAUSE I'M A GUY!

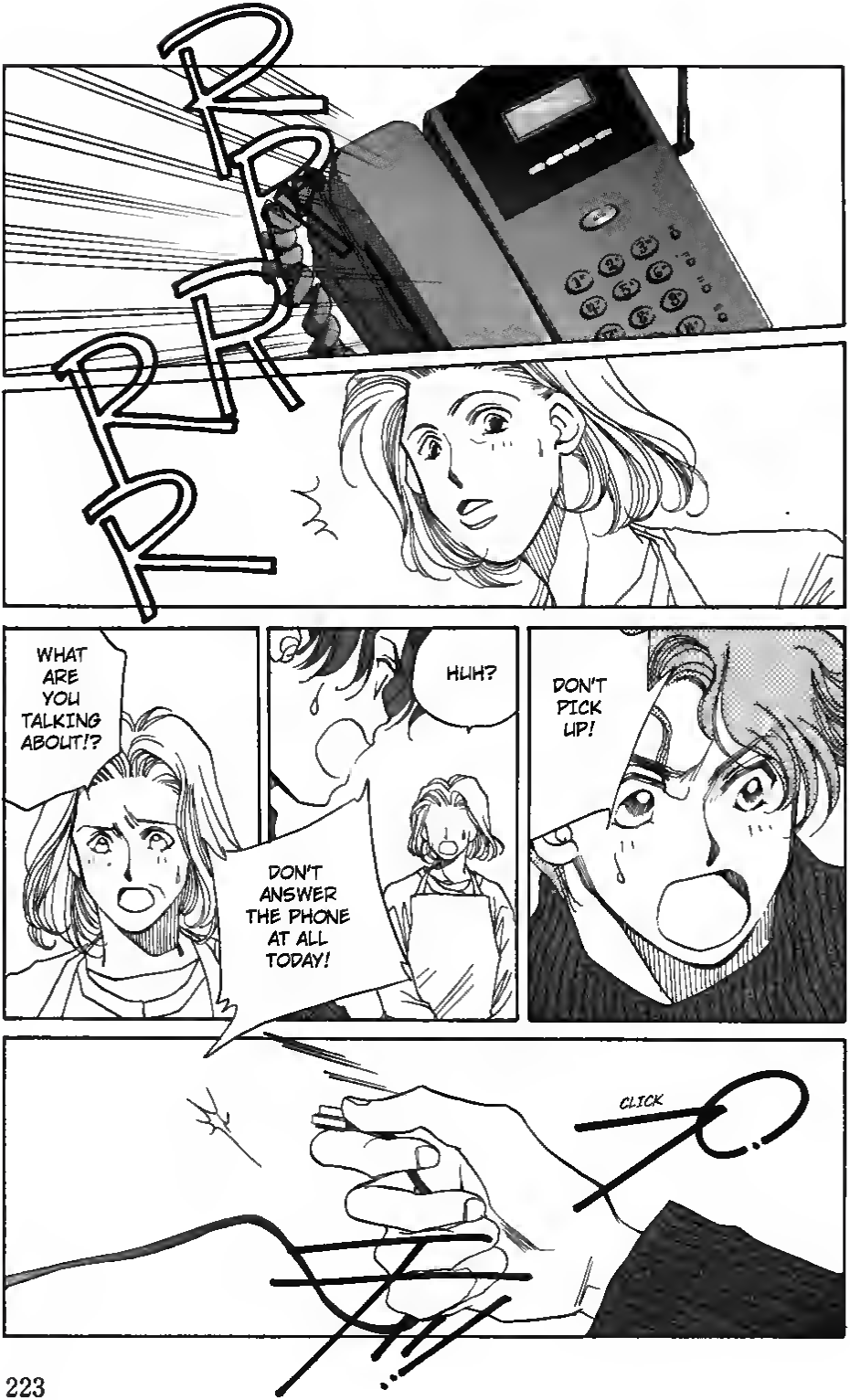
EVERYTHING THAT I DID WITH YOU...
WAS A MISTAKE!

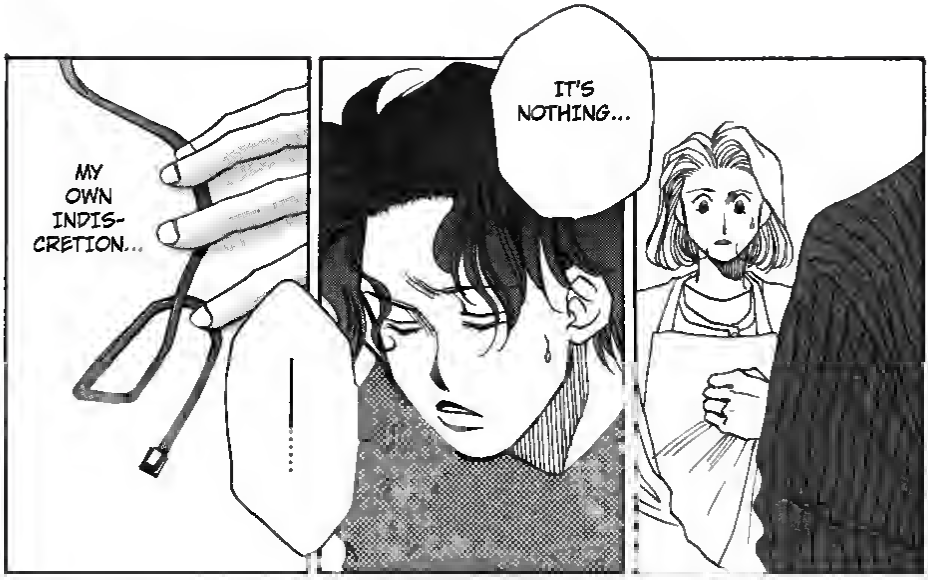


PIPIPIPA
I'M HOME.
KARUHA
カチャ
CLICK
SUGIURA RESI-DENCE.
TSUBAKI.

THAT'S UNDER-STANDABLE AT THIS POINT IN TIME.
BUT-
YOU'RE A BIT SHAKEN.
LET'S TALK...
CALMLY ABOUT THIS.
QUATER
WELCOME BACK, TSUBAKI.
DID THE PHONE RING JUST NOW?
BUT, I GUESS IT WAS A WRONG NUMBER...
AH, YEAH.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO ANSWER IT?
TSUBAKI?
RRRRRRRRRRRR
SHOCK
TSUBAKI!?
WAIT-
STOMP
STOMP
CLATTER


RRR
RRR
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
HUH?
DON'T ANSWER THE PHONE AT ALL TODAY!
DON'T PICK UP!
CLICK



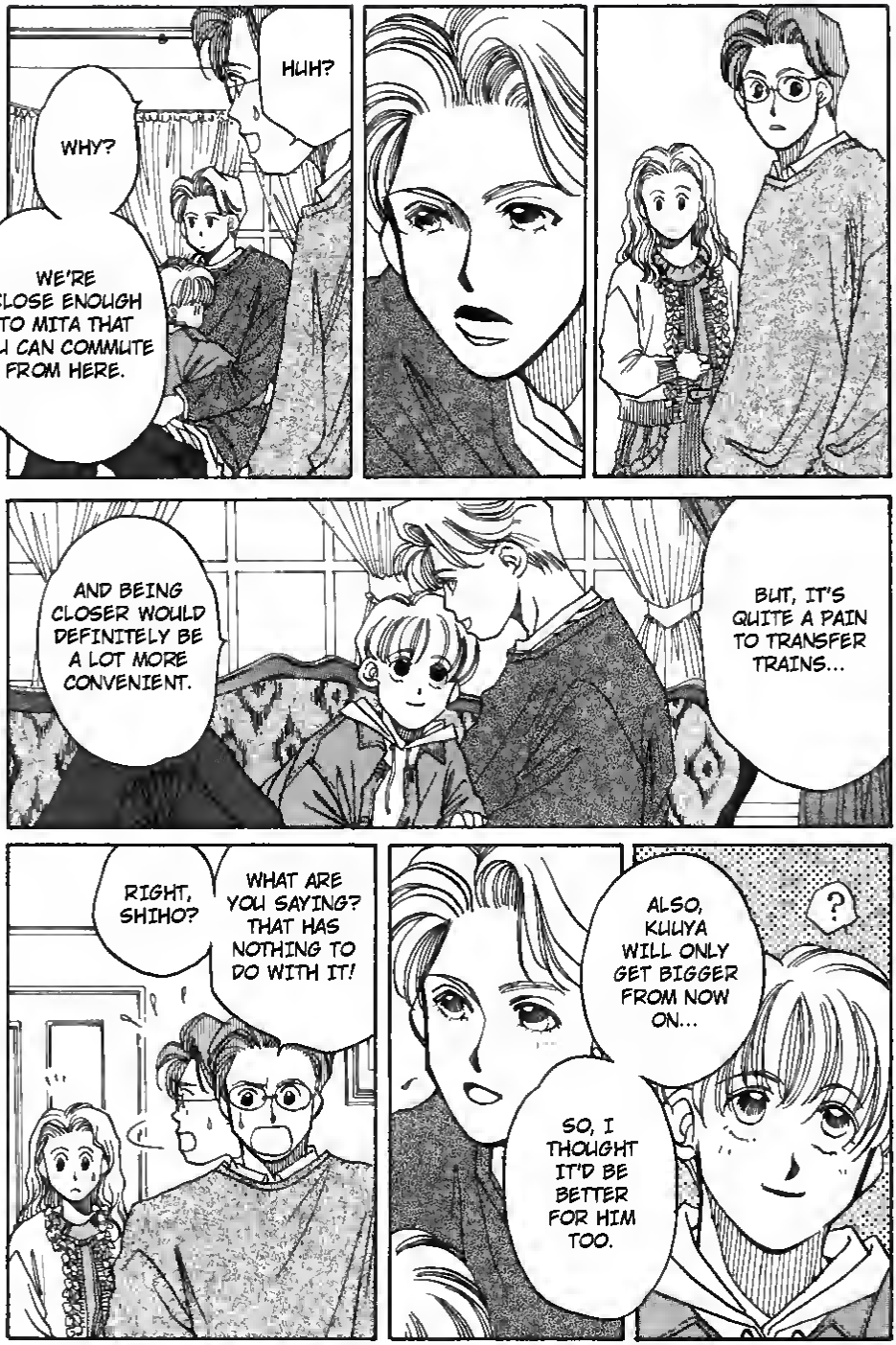
IS BURDENING OTHER PEOPLE.

RIP
RRRIP

RIP

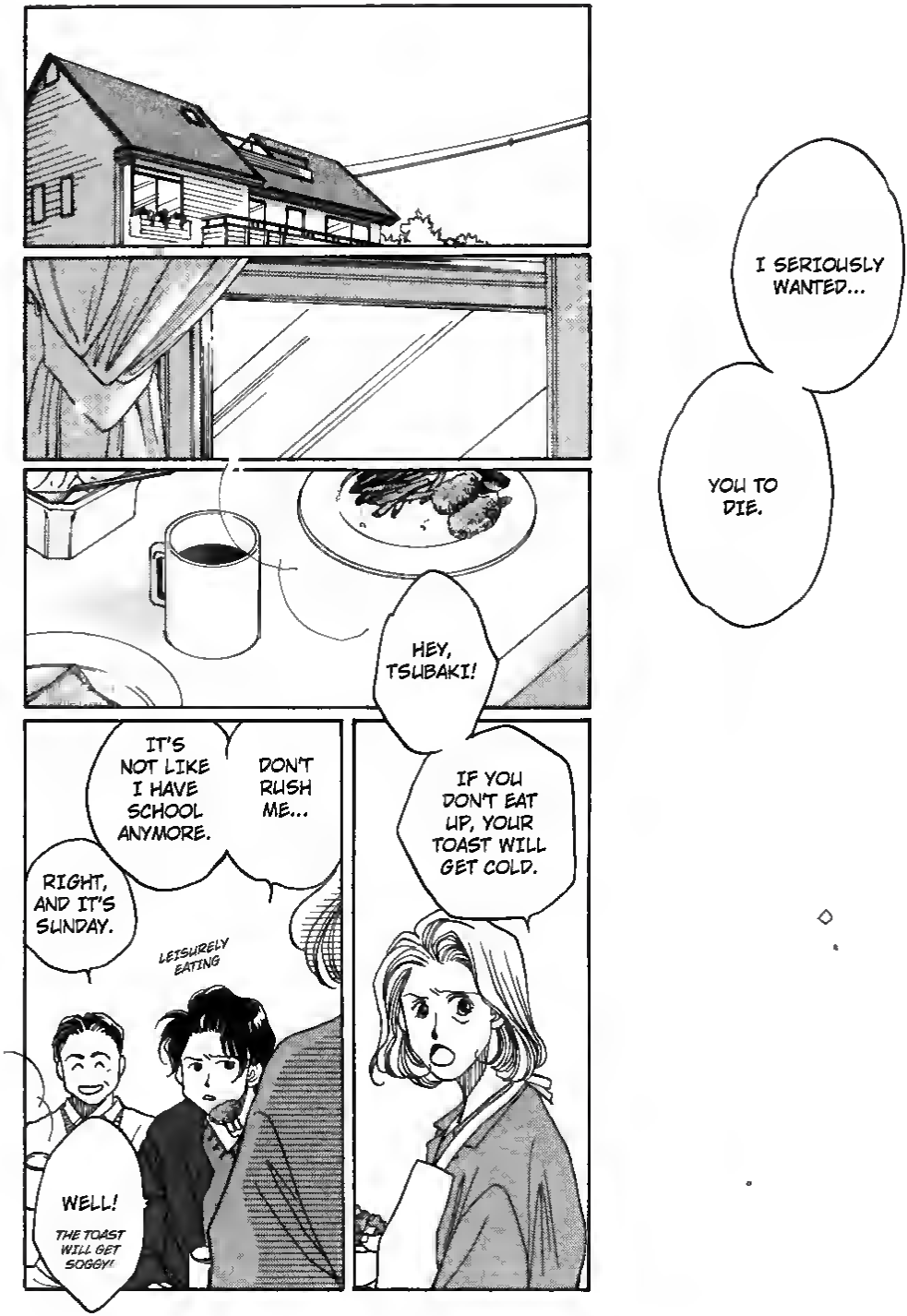
YEAH?
KOU!
CAKE!
WE BOUGHT CAKE! ♡
CAKE?
WE'LL LIVE IT UP!
DAD'S COMING HOME TONIGHT TOO.
IT'S FOR YOUR COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE PARTY.
HUH?
DON'T CLIMB IN MY LAP. IT'S ANNOYING...

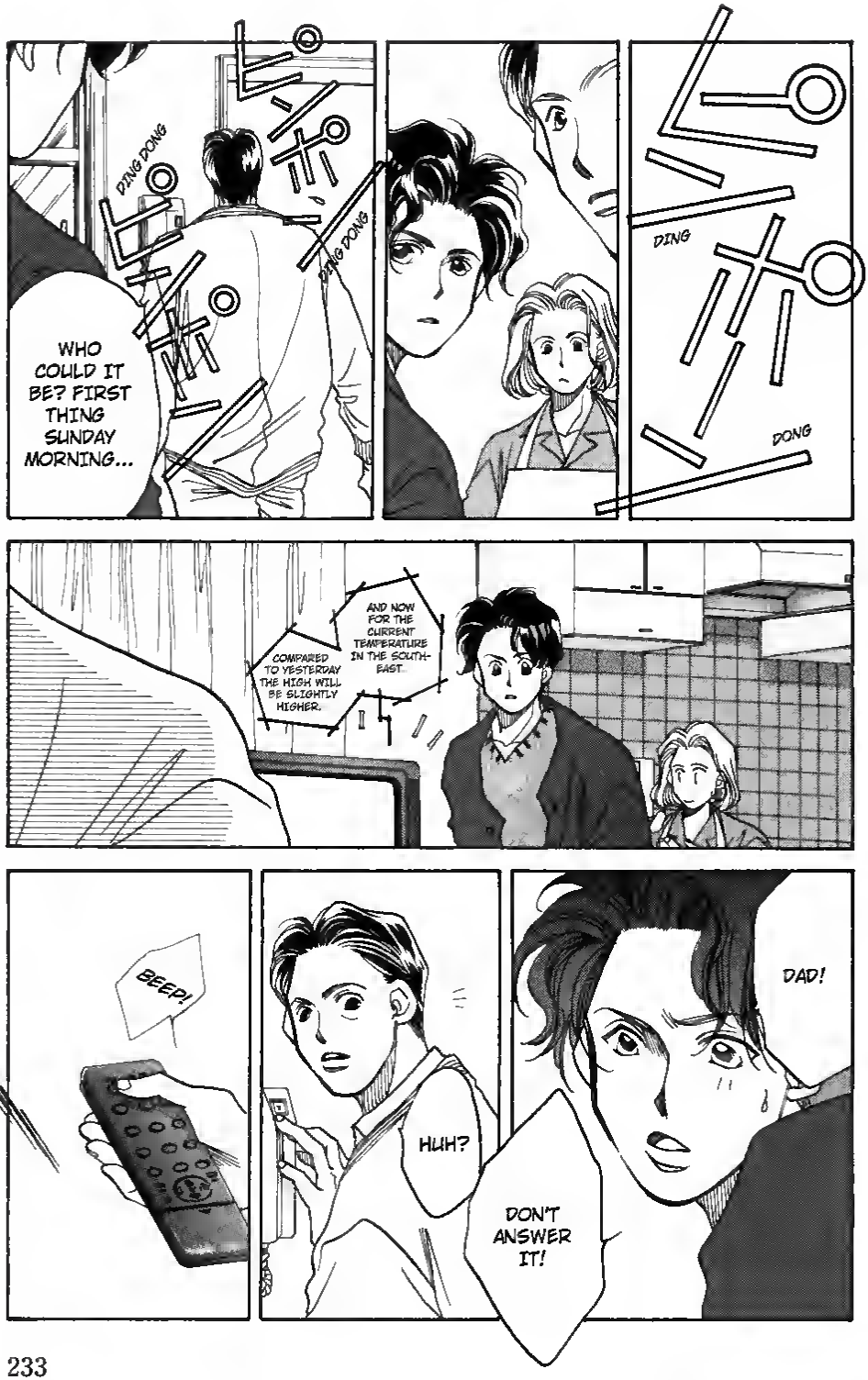
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT
SUSHI!
SUSHI! LET'S HAVE SUSHI!
IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR ME THOUGH
HA HA HA!
HE'S ALWAYS WANTED HIS SON TO GET INTO HIS ALMA MATER.
DAD IS SO HAPPY.
OH...
DAICHI...
YES?
I WANT TO LIVE BY MYSELF IN TOKYO.


HUH?
WHY?
WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH TO MITA THAT YOU CAN COMMUTE FROM HERE.
BUT, IT'S QUITE A PAIN TO TRANSFER TRAINS...
AND BEING CLOSER WOULD DEFINITELY BE A LOT MORE CONVENIENT.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
RIGHT, SHIHO?
?
ALSO, KUUYA WILL ONLY GET BIGGER FROM NOW ON...
SO, I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER FOR HIM TOO.

HUH?
HOW COULD YOU?!
WELL, TRAINS DURING RUSH HOUR ARE TERRIBLE...
IT'S A GOOD IDEA.
I THINK...
WHAT?
LET HIM MOVE TO TOKYO!
HM...
AND I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE.
KOU IS VERY RESPONSIBLE SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
DON'T SAY THAT! KULIYA IS YOUR SON!
FEELS LIKE MY SON IS BECOMING INDEPENDENT.
BUT, WE'LL BE LONELY...
DOWN-HEARTED
THAT'S TRUE...
I GUESS...

SHOOT! HE FELL ASLEEP.
HE'S SO HEAVY.
AH!
HE'S FAST ASLEEP.
WE HAVE TO CALL THE SUSHI PLACE.
WE'LL GET SOME KID'S SUSHI FOR KULIYA.
WHEN YOU WERE STILL IN THAT WOMAN'S BELLY...
I KICKED YOU.
HEY, KULIYA...


I SERIOUSLY WANTED...
YOU TO DIE.
HEY, TSUBAKI!
IF YOU DON'T EAT UP, YOUR TOAST WILL GET COLD.
DON'T RUSH ME...
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE SCHOOL ANYMORE.
RIGHT, AND IT'S SUNDAY.
LEISURELY EATING
WELL!
THE TOAST WILL GET SOGGY!


DING DONG
DING DONG
WHO COULD IT BE? FIRST THING SUNDAY MORNING...
DING
DONG
AND NOW FOR THE CURRENT TEMPERATURE IN THE SOUTH-EAST.
COMPARED TO YESTERDAY THE HIGH WILL BE SLIGHTLY HIGHER.
BEEP!
HUH?
DON'T ANSWER IT!
DAD!

TSUBAKI?
WHAT'S WRONG?
AAAH!
CRASH

ROLL
WHAT'S THIS?
CRINKLE

TSUBAKI.
AAA AAH!

CRACK
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
CRINKLE
TSUBAKI.
DO YOU INTEND TO ERASE YOUR MISTAKE?

WOOOSH

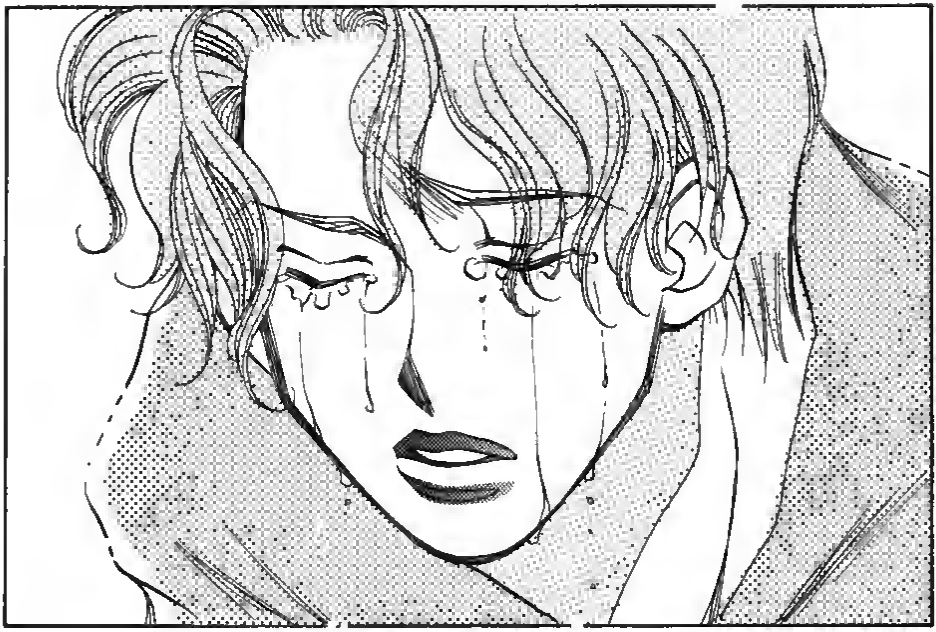
THE MISTAKE WON'T DISAPPEAR, TSUBAKI!
EVEN IF YOU FORGET ME, THAT MISTAKE WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR!
YOUR BODY HAS HAD RELATIONS MANY TIMES WITH A MAN.
YOU'LL BE THAT WAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE,
TSUBAKI.

MOM...
!
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW.
WHY...?
WHY DID YOU DO...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITH A MAN!?

COME ON NOW...
MOM...
IT'S MY FAULT, ISN'T IT?
IF ONLY I...
HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO YOU AS A GIRL...
IT WOULD ALL BE FINE...
I'M SORRY, TSUBAKI.
...!

I WONDER IF GLASS REPAIR CAN COME BY TODAY...
WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO DO...
OKAY...
.....
CLINK
I'LL CLEAN IT UP...
SO, JUST GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.

CLICK
I AM PREPARED TO BE CONDEMNED IN ANY WAY.
MOM...
BUT...



PLEASE, DON'T SAY...

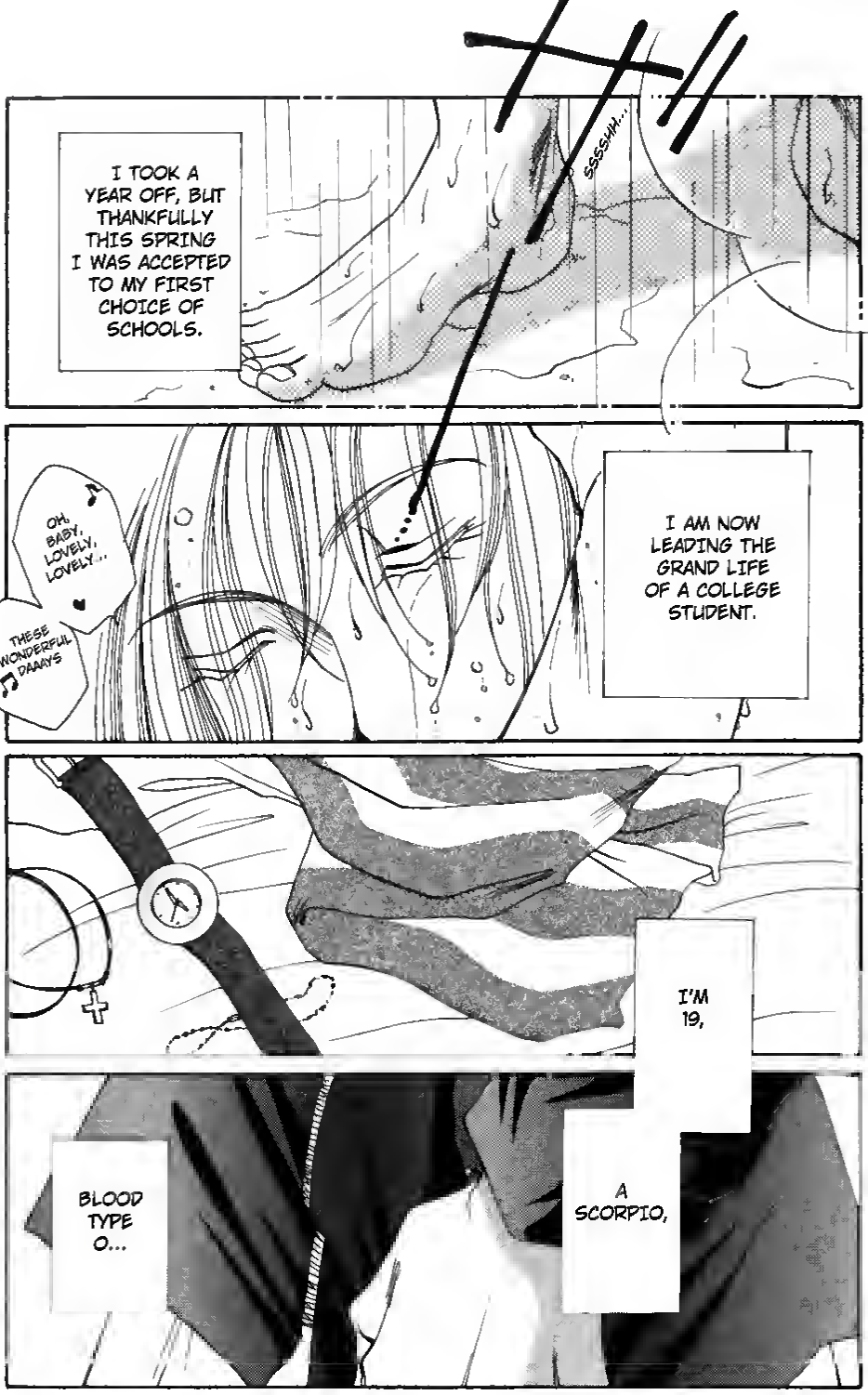
PLEASE, DON'T SAY IT WAS A MISTAKE THAT I WAS BORN.

THAT WAS MY MISTAKE...

I COULD ONLY THINK OF RUNNING AWAY SOMEWHERE.
IF I TOOK THE BULLET TRAIN FROM TAKASAKI, THEN, IN ONLY AN HOUR...
I COULD BE IN TOKYO.

CHAPTER 8: MAHORIN OF NICHOUME

MY NAME IS TAKAFUMI MAHORI.
YAWN
ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK, CHEERFULLY WATCHING...
KNOWN AS "MAHORIN OF NICHOUME."*
SIGH
*NICHOUME IS AN AREA IN THE SHINJUKU WARD OF TOKYO FAMOUS FOR ITS HIGH CONCENTRATION OF GAY BARS


I TOOK A YEAR OFF, BUT THANKFULLY THIS SPRING I WAS ACCEPTED TO MY FIRST CHOICE OF SCHOOLS.
SSSSHH...
I AM NOW LEADING THE GRAND LIFE OF A COLLEGE STUDENT.
OH, BABY, LOVELY, LOVELY...
THESE WONDERFUL DAAAYS
I'M 19,
A SCORPIO,
BLOOD TYPE O...

AND HOMOSEXUAL.
ALL RIGHT!

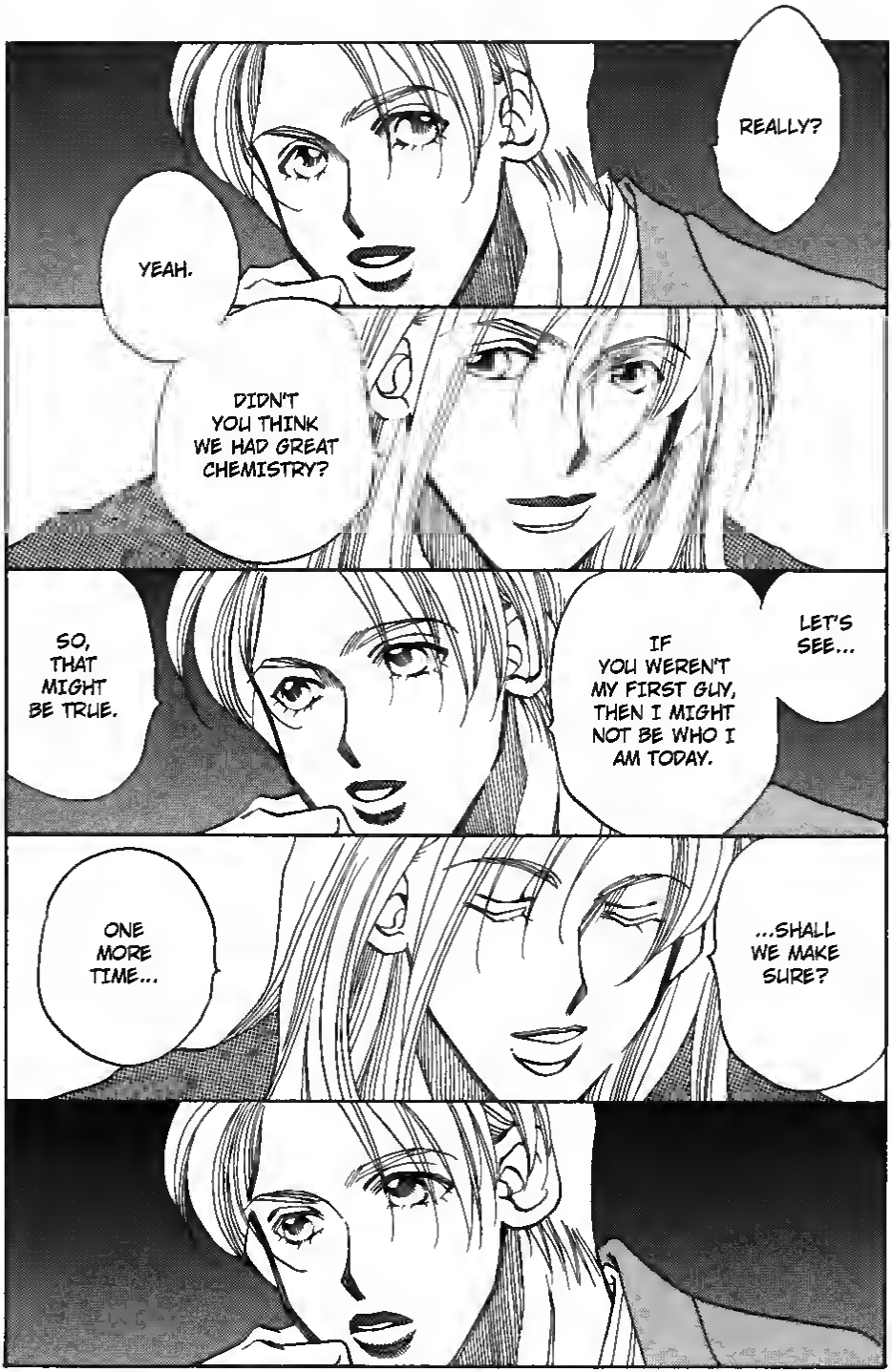
HOWEVER, PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND. I'M DEFINITELY NOT A BAD GUY.
TO PUT IT FRANKLY, I'M GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS A "PLAYBOY."
I HAVE A TRACK RECORD OF GETTING EVEN THE MOST IMPREGNABLE OPPONENTS TO FALL FOR ME WITH A SINGLE KISS.
I AM A DILIGENT AND LONELY WANDERER OF LOVE.
YO!
I CONTINUE TO LOOK INDISCRIM-INATELY FOR THE LOVE OF MY LIFE.

MAHORIN!
LONG TIME NO SEE.
YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN UP AT ALL LATELY.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HA HA HA! THAT WAS 'CAUSE I WAS TAKING A YEAR OFF.
NOW I'M LIVING BY MYSELF NEAR HERE.
COME OVER SOMETIME.
HA HA HA!
WAAH! YOU CAN TAKE HOME WHOEVER YOU WANT NOW.
BY THE WAY, THE OTHER DAY HE-

IT'S YOU!
MORE THAN...
TWO YEARS AGO...
THAT PERSON WHO STANDS OUT, WHETHER HE WANTS TO OR NOT...
HE'S MY FIRST GUY!
NOT A FRIEND... OR ANY-THING...
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED
CERTAINLY FRIENDS
WHAT? IS KOUTAROU A FRIEND OF YOURS?
HEY, IT'S MAHORIN.
HEY!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

HA HA HA!
I CERTAINLY NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
WELL, SO-SO...
HOW'S IT GOING WITH THE LADIES?
IS HE BIT
CHEERS!
CLINK
SO... TO OUR REUNION!
I'M ALWAYS THIS WAY WHEN I'M OUT.
REALLY?
YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING A LOT OF FUN TODAY...
YOU'RE WHAT... 18 NOW?
YEAH.
COLLEGE STUDENT?
YEAH.
STILL A CHILD.
I WAS...
IT'S BECAUSE BACK THEN...

IT'S OKAY. WHO NEEDS A PHONE?
IF WE COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS WE CAN MEET ANYTIME.
OH, RIGHT! GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUMBER.
HUH?
'CAUSE I DIDN'T GET TO ASK YOU FOR IT BACK THEN.
HM...?
IF I MATCH HIS PACE, WE'LL END UP NOTHING MORE THAN "GOOD FRIENDS."
HRM
HE BLOCKED ME...
ANOTHER MARTINI PLEASE.
AFTER THAT TIME,
I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU A LOT.
YEAH?
IF I DON'T CASUALLY TAKE A STEP FORWARD HERE...
KOUTAROU.


REALLY?
YEAH.
DIDN'T YOU THINK WE HAD GREAT CHEMISTRY?
LET'S SEE...
IF YOU WEREN'T MY FIRST GUY, THEN I MIGHT NOT BE WHO I AM TODAY.
SO, THAT MIGHT BE TRUE.
...SHALL WE MAKE SURE?
ONE MORE TIME...

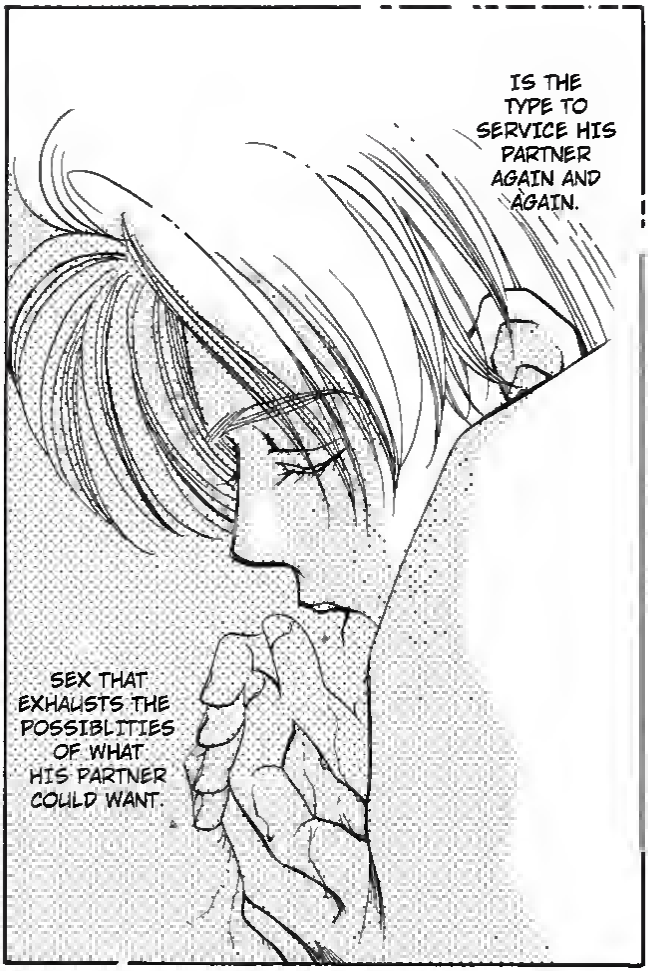
TWO YEARS AGO, I REALLY LET YOU TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING...
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, HUH?
HE'S ONLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD ABOUT HIS SENSE OF VIRTUE.
AND THEN, JUST LIKE BEFORE,
LION
HEY...
YEAH?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND THIS GUY...
AH...
WELL, THAT WASN'T REALLY...

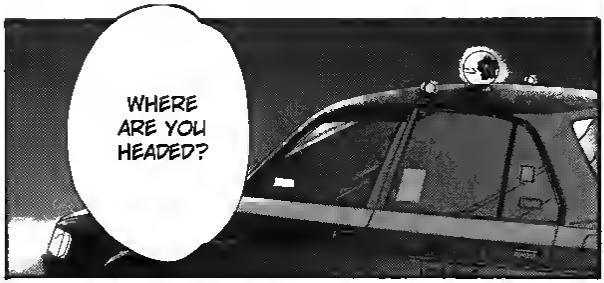
ARE YOU GLAD TO HAVE GOTTEN INTO GUYS?
I HAPPILY SLEEP WITH THEM.
YOU CAN SEE THAT FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT?

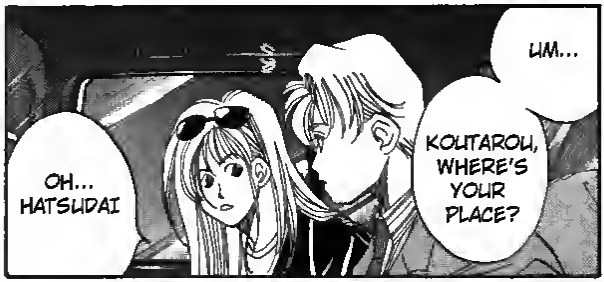
I NEVER KNEW IT TWO YEARS AGO,
BUT THIS GUY...

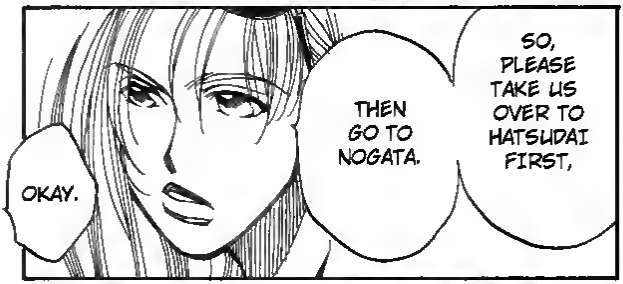
■ TAKAFUMI MAHORI

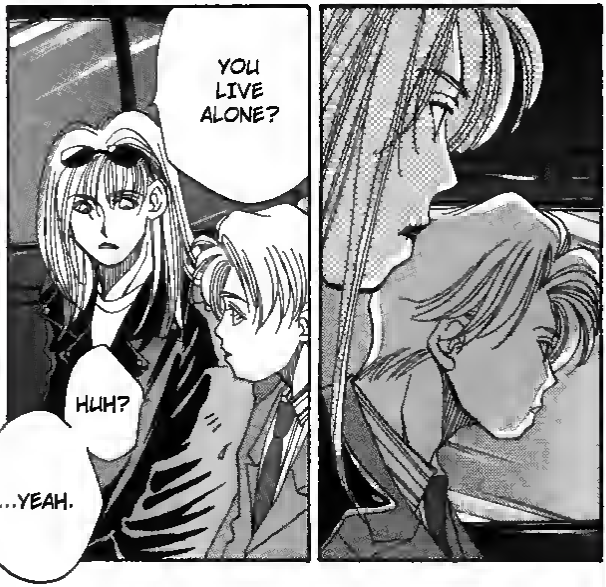
AT FIRST, HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A MORE SOBER PERSON (SEE CHAPTER 5). BUT, WHEN HE APPEARED NO ONE TOOK ANY NOTICE. (LAUGHS) FROM THE TIME HE GAVE HIMSELF THE NICKNAME "MAHORIN," HE HAD A SUDDEN RISE IN POPULARITY. NOW, HE'S BECOME SOME KIND OF IDOL IN *DOUSEI AI*... MAYBE...?




WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?

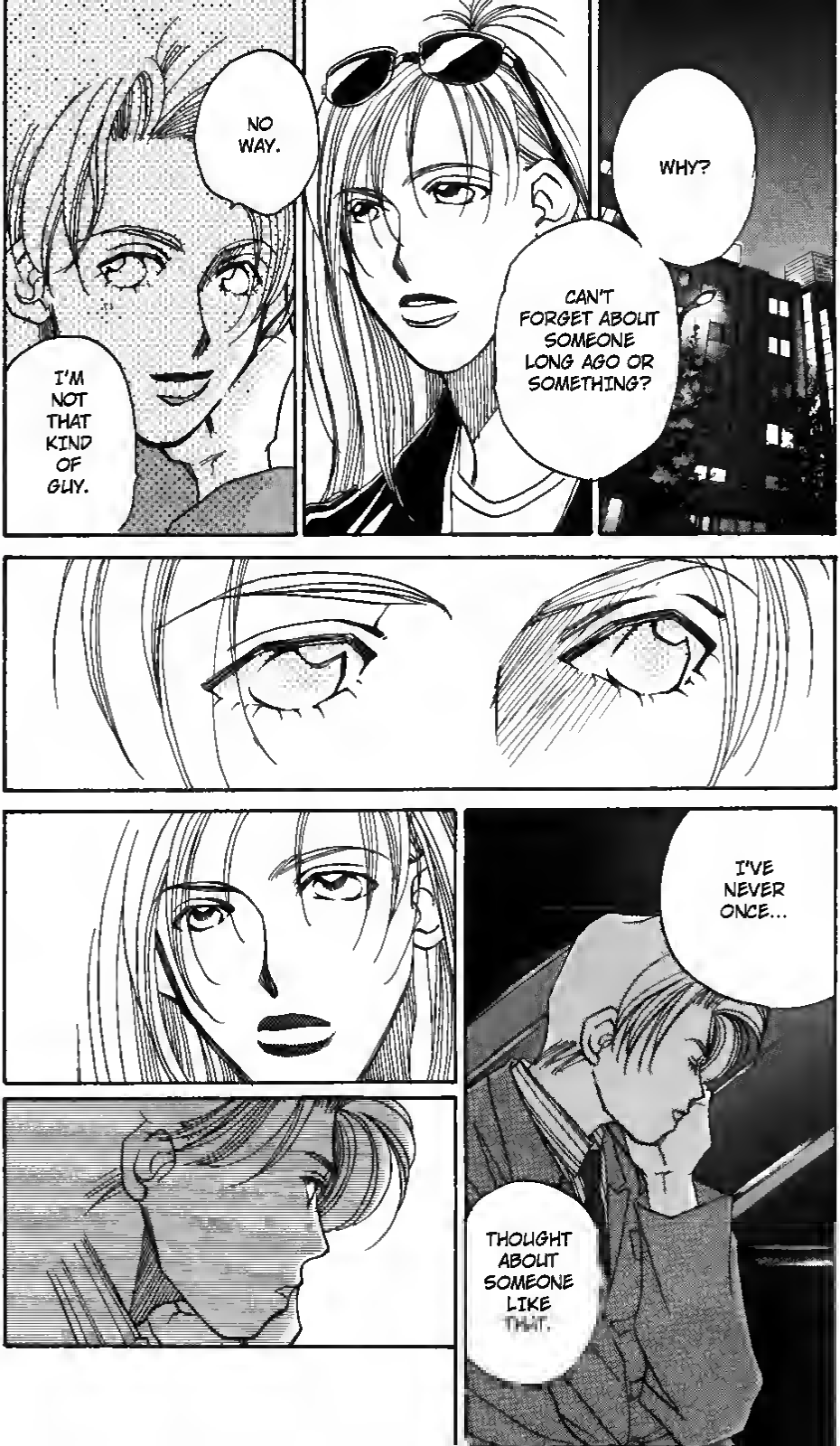

UM...
KOUTAROU, WHERE'S YOUR PLACE?
OH... HATSUDAI

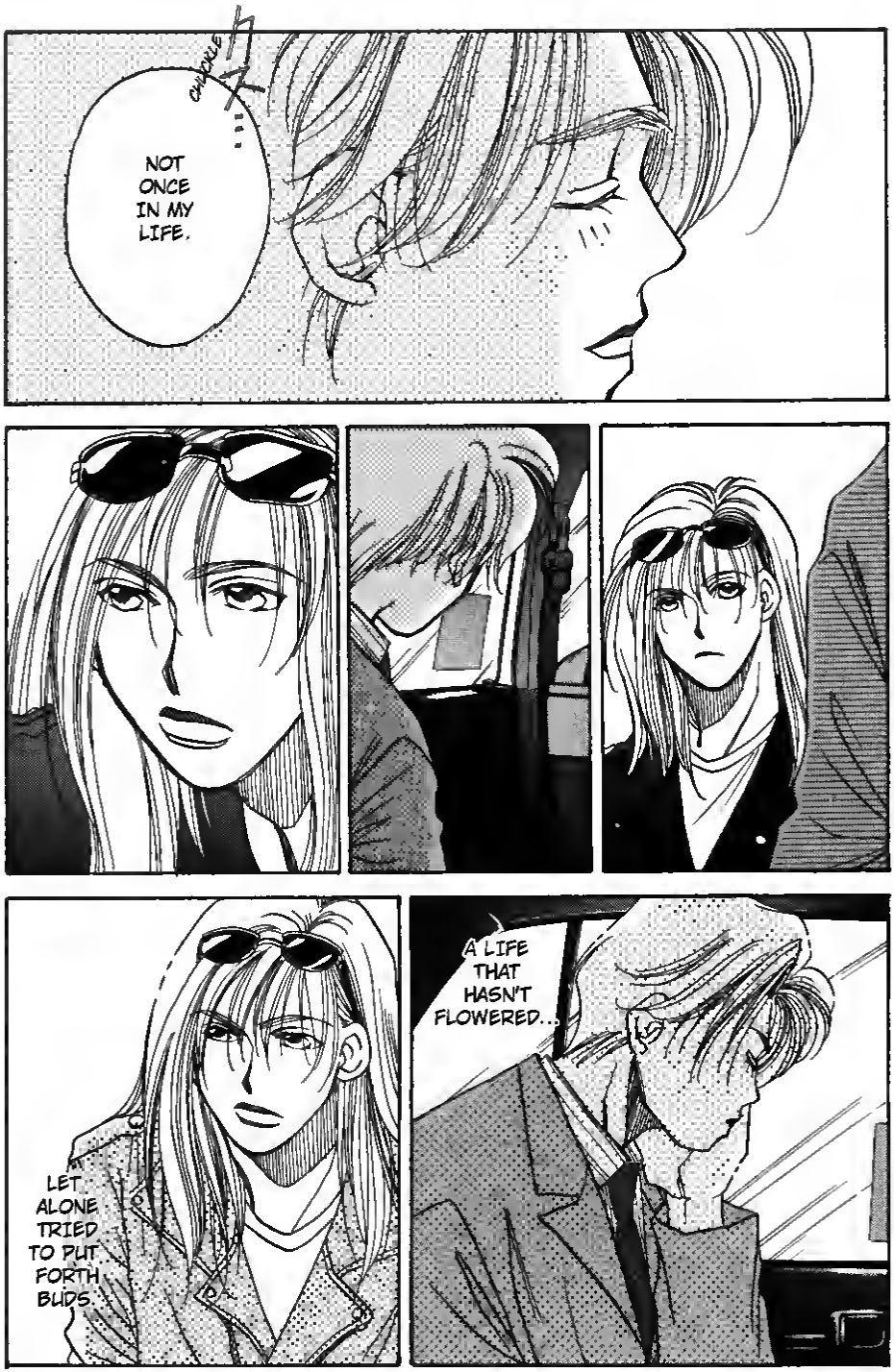

SO, PLEASE TAKE US OVER TO HATSUDAI FIRST,
THEN GO TO NOGATA.
OKAY.


YOU LIVE ALONE?
HUH?
...YEAH.

WOULDN'T THAT BREAK YOU?

TWO YEARS AGO...
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T DATE PEOPLE.
BUT NOW?
...OH.
HA HA HA!
THAT'S RIGHT.


NO WAY.
I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GUY.
WHY?
CAN'T FORGET ABOUT SOMEONE LONG AGO OR SOMETHING?
I'VE NEVER ONCE...
THOUGHT ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE THAT.

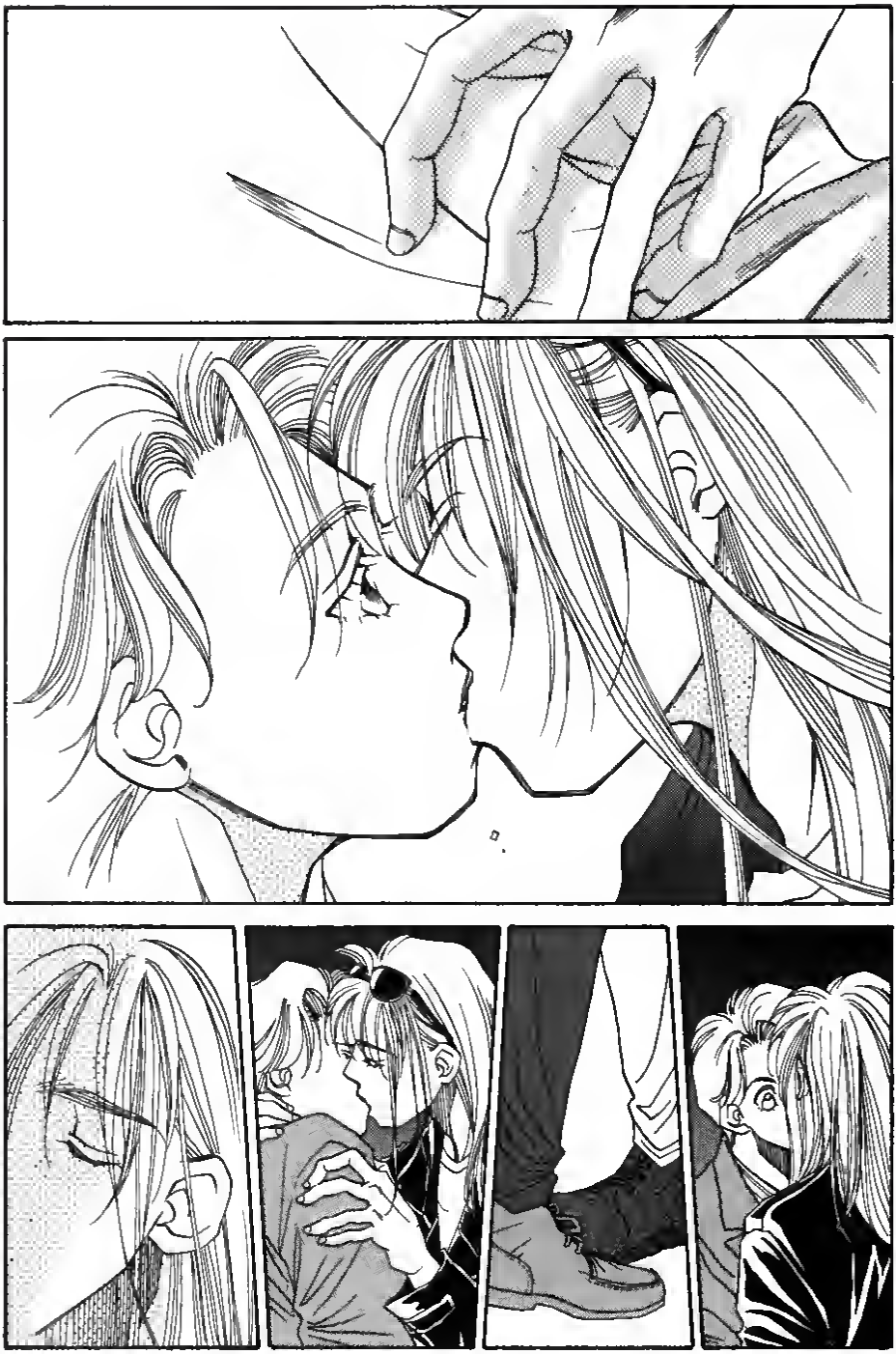

CHUCKLE
NOT ONCE IN MY LIFE.
A LIFE THAT HASN'T FLOWERED...
LET ALONE TRIED TO PUT FORTH BUDS.

HE IS ONLY OVERGROWN WITH EXCESSIVE LEAVES...
I UNDER-STAND THAT, BUT...
HE MUST CHANGE...
IF HE FALLS IN LOVE.
SIR.
THAT SHIELD HIS BODY.

SCREECH!
HERE'S FINE.
AH...
WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE LET OFF IN HATSUDAI?
BYE.
SEE YOU LATER.
WAIT!

GO OUT WITH ME!
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN, YET...
I WON'T LET YOU PRETEND TO KNOW HOW IT WILL ALL TURN OUT.
I CAN'T LET YOU GO LIKE THIS.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU LOOK DOWN ON DATING OR HAVE JUST GIVEN UP...
BUT DON'T PRETEND LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL.
GO OUT WITH ME...
——.....



!!!
SHOVE

PTOO!
I HATE PUSHY PEOPLE.
.....

.....
SIR, THE METER'S STILL RUNNING.
IS THAT OKAY?
VROOM...
NO WAY...
SLAM
YOU SPAT AFTER I...

SIR,
I'M GETTING ON ROUTE 7 NOW. IS THAT OKAY?
YEAH, SURE...
WHATEVER'S FINE...
.....
THERE'S REALLY A WAY TO GET TURNED DOWN LIKE THAT, HUH?
SIR, IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AHEAD OF TIME.
I'M FINE...
PIIOP
BLINK

AH...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOVER FOR A WHILE...
SEEMS LIKE I WAS UNEXPECTEDLY SERIOUS
OH! WHERE IS THE LOVE OF MY LIFE?
...WELL, PUTTING THAT ASIDE...
WHO CAN SAVE HIM?

IF SOMEONE...
DOESN'T HELP HIM SOON...

SOMEONE...

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2

DOUSEI AI
LOVE UNDER ONE ROOF

WHO IS IN KOUTAROU'S FUTURE!? PART 1

WHO IN THE WORLD IS IN THE MYSTERIOUS BOX?!
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2.